



# Mountain Empire Community College

## ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, January 19, 2021

*Meeting held via Zoom due to Declared Emergency COVID-19 Pandemic*

4:30 p.m.

Kline Foundation Boardroom

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and Call to Order..... Mr. Rodney Baker, Chair
2. Minutes for approval (**Exhibit A**) ..... Mr. Baker
3. Administrative Reports
  - A. Chair
    - ✚ Reminder to complete 2021 Conflict of Interest - **due February 1st**  
If you need assistance completing the form, please contact **Val Lee**  
at **276-523-2400, ext. 212**
  - B. President's Report..... Dr. Kristen Westover
  - C. President's Staff Reports
    - ✚ Foundation and Institutional Advancement..... Dr. Amy Greear
    - ✚ Financial and Administrative Services..... Mr. Ron Vicars
    - ✚ Academic Affairs and Workforce Solutions.....Dr. Vickie Ratliff
4. Committee Reports
  - a. Executive Committee (**Did not meet**)
  - b. Finance and Facilities Committee (**Did not meet**)
  - c. Curriculum and Student Affairs Committee (**Did not meet**)
5. Old/New Business..... Mr. Baker
  - a. **ACTION Item** – Review of the College's Names and Buildings (See attachment)
  - b. Executive Committee
    - i. 2021 Professor & Support Staff Emeritus Nominations (Committees decided that there would not be a new selection for the 2021 Emeritus Awards since last year's recipients were not recognized due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation)
      1. Professor Emeritus – Carolyn Reynolds
      2. Support Staff Emeritus - Jamie Buckles
    - ii. President's Evaluation
6. Public Comments/Other
7. Next Meeting Date – March 16, 2021
8. Adjournment

# Meeting Minutes

---

## **MECC Local Advisory Board**

*Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 4:30 p.m.*

**Meeting was held remotely due to the impact and restrictions of COVID-19 and social distancing requirements from the Governor**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

#### **SCOTT COUNTY**

Rodney Baker  
Freda Starnes  
Adrienne Hood  
Keith Wilson

#### **WISE COUNTY**

Bonnie Elosser  
Mike Abbott  
Betty Cornett  
Teresa Adkins

#### **LEE COUNTY**

Gail Elliott  
Emily Kinser  
Gary Perdue  
Elwanda Pillion

#### **CITY OF NORTON**

#### **DICKENSON COUNTY**

Burl Mooney

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Tim Cassell (Norton)

### **OTHERS ATTENDING**

Dr. Kristen Westover - President  
Dr. Vickie Ratliff – Vice President of Academic and Workforce Solutions  
Mr. Ron Vicars – Vice President of Financial and Administrative Services  
Dr. Amy Greear – Vice President of Institutional Advancement  
Ms. Sarah Gilliam – President, Faculty Senate  
Peggy Gibson- Executive Assistant to the President

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Mountain Empire Community College Advisory Board met on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom meeting due to the ongoing situation with the coronavirus (COVID-19). The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rodney Baker, Chair.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Adrienne Hood to accept the November 17, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Freda Starnes and passed unanimously. (Exhibit 1)

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

Mr. Baker reported on the following information items:



- Newly appointed Local Advisory Board Member representing Lee County:
  - ✚ Ms. Elwanda Pillion

Mr. Baker introduced and welcomed newly appointed Board member, Ms. Elwanda Pillion, representing Lee County. Ms. Pillion was appointed by the Lee County Board of Supervisors recently filling the unexpired term of Ms. Helen Chadwell.

- Mr. Baker reminded Board members that the 2021 Conflict of Interest is due to be completed by February 1, 2021.

### President's Report - Dr. Kristen Westover

Dr. Westover reported on the following items:

#### Activities Report

- ❖ Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all travel has been cancelled at this time and most meetings are held via Zoom.

#### Updates

- ❖ Dr. Westover shared the sad news of the passing of MECC's first President, Dr. George Vaughn. Dr. Vaughn was hired as MECC's first President in 1971 and began MECC's first classes in 1972 and later became president of Piedmont Community College. Dr. Vaughn authored or co-authored 17 books about community colleges and the presidential position over his lifetime, paving the way for many to follow in his footsteps. Dr. Westover mentioned that it is clear from his actions, writings and his legacy at MECC that he was an advocate for open access and equity, comprehensiveness, community, commitment to teaching, and lifelong learning.
- ❖ Dr. Westover shared that several students have reported positive for the coronavirus within the last two weeks of the beginning of classes. Approximately 20 employees have been affected in some way since the beginning of the pandemic. Most of our health sciences courses are now on campus and in-person with many of these students taking advantage of receiving the vaccination when it was offered on our campus to health care individuals several weeks ago.
- ❖ Fall 2020 FTE enrollment was approximately 1.8% down from the year before. Spring 2021 FTE enrollment is down 5% compared to last year at this time. However, we are waiting on more dual enrollment numbers to come in.
- ❖ Dr. Westover shared that \$3.31M dollars of additional CARES Act funding has been awarded. Some of the restrictions regarding the use of these funds have been lifted and right now the college is working to determine how best to distribute these funds; how much of these funds will go directly to students and how much can be used in off revenue or budget shortfalls for the college. We are waiting for guidance from the VCCS on what we do with the organizational part on how best to distribute.  
 Dr. Westover also gave an update on the "Re-Employing Virginians" (REV) funds. When the "Re-Employing Virginians" (REV) Grants program was first announced by Governor Ralph Northam on October 30, federal funding rules at the time imposed a strict deadline of December 14 for Virginians to sign-up for classes in the targeted career fields. But just before Christmas, congress approved a multi-billion dollar Covid-19 relief funding package that will allow sign-ups for REV Grants to continue through December of 2021. Individuals will enroll in a workforce or community college program in five essential industries, including health care, information technology, skilled trades, public safety, and early childhood education. Those choosing to pursue a career studies certificate, or an associate



degree would receive a voucher of up to \$1,500 as a part-time student or up to \$3,000 as a full-time student, which would cover the full cost of tuition for one year.

- ❖ Dr. Westover expressed her appreciation for all the hard work done by Dr. Vickie Ratliff, Nora Blankenbecler, Jane Jones, and Sabrina Ward in connecting with our students to fill positions at the new eHealth facility in Scott County. Dr. Ratliff will share more in her update below.
- ❖ The General Assembly is now in session; VCCS priorities are around the G3 initiative “Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back” and advising. Dr. Westover shared that a couple of years ago there had been a joint legislative audit conducted by JLARC that had identified advising as a shortfall in the Virginia Community College System. The report was that we need to more heavily invest in our advisors. Since then, the college has tried to focus more on adding more advisors such as our Career Coaches and Navigators. Dr. Westover mentioned that we have learned some things that we need to be doing as a result of a recent audit with Dr. Kim Smith (Virginia Tech). She also mentioned that it will be interesting to see how this aligns with the legislative session and whether or not we will receive money to fund the initiative.
- ❖ Dr. Westover shared that the System’s office Strategic Plan is now in the early stages and mentioned that we are planning to align the college’s strategic plan with the System’s. Our work included surveying students, faculty/staff, and state holders which was shared earlier during In-service. Feedback from this survey will be used to put together some town hall meetings throughout the semester and coming months. Below are some of the System’s goals:
  - Equity Goal – By 2027, Virginia’s Community Colleges will achieve equity in access, learning and success for students from every race, ethnicity, gender and socioeconomic group.
  - Reimagining Teaching and Learning – Provide all students with access to high impact practices that support educational excellence and equity in student success
  - Student Supports – Provide all students with a culture of care that responds to the needs of our diverse student population and supports and inspires their educational and career success
  - Future of Work – Provide all students with the knowledge, skills, credentials, and degrees that enable them to thrive in dynamic and emerging 21<sup>st</sup> century careers shaped by the future of work.
  - Reimagining Funding and Finance – Provide all students with access to affordable college educations that support their need for financial flexibility while also supporting the vitality and sustainability of our colleges.

The System’s next steps will be to finalize their strategies under each of these goals for review by governance councils; present draft to State Board in January, with action in March; establish a Communications Team; and design and implement system wide professional development. Dr. Westover mentioned that a lot of areas that the System office has addressed were also mentioned as focus areas in our initial planning survey such as financial support, and meeting employer’s needs. As we move forward, we will be keeping the System’s office goals in mind and a will plan a meeting with our Board to gather feedback.

### **Vice President of Financial and Administrative Services – Mr. Ron Vicars**

#### **Updates:**

Local Funds Expenditure Report – Mr. Vicars reviewed with Board members the Local Funds Expenditure Report ending December 31, 2020. (See Exhibit 2 with details)



Personnel Report – Mr. Vicars reviewed the personnel report ending January 15, 2021. (See Exhibit 3 with details)

There were no questions or comments regarding these reports from Board members.

### **Vice President of Academic and Student Services – Dr. Vickie Ratliff**

Information Item(s):

- Dr. Ratliff shared that enrollment is down 5% as of right now but is expected to change over the next couple of weeks due to dual enrollment still being processed.
- Classes for Spring are mostly online with the exception of our hands on instruction classes and heavy labs. She also mentioned that preliminary data from the fall number are actually showing a higher success rate in our classes compared to the previous fall and included fewer withdrawals.
- Dr. Ratliff shared that at the beginning of January the college began an Advising Structure Review/Audit which was conducted by Dr. Kimberly Smith, Associate Vice Provost for Student Success Initiatives at Virginia Tech and is also a member of the National Academic Advising Association's consulting group. Dr. Smith will be recommending suggestions and/or changes of improvement in her report within the next couple of weeks.

#### **WORKFORCE Update:**

- Welding Fabrication Lab is up and running with good enrollment. She encouraged Board members to take some time to visit and see some of the projects at the CWIA.
- An on-line culinary class was added between the fall and spring semester and was very successful.
- MECC's Basic Construction Class partnered with the Town of Appalachia and a small business owner to help renovate one of the town's main street storefronts which will soon open as the new Appalachia Mercantile. MECC Instructor, Bryce Shular is leading the class of 15 students teaching local residents basic construction skills with a hands-on, real-world application.
- In addition, MECC's Lineman class has also been working with the Town of Appalachia in utilizing their training in chain saw and workplace safety skills with helping to clear land and hillsides for the town.
- CDL program is also growing and mentioned that MECC was granted approval to become a CDL testing center for the in-person inspection and driving portion of the CDL licenses.
- Dr. Ratliff also shared that in helping some of our local entrepreneur, we have partnered with Clisso's Salad Dressing who is now leasing our newly finished kitchen at the CWIA and has used the kitchen to develop a new line of teriyaki sauces.
- Dr. Ratliff also shared that the college recently hired Ms. Becky O'Quinn who has been able to assist Mr. Blankenbecler in the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) since October and now is hiring a director and support person for that area. Dr. Ratliff mentioned that there has been a reclassification for the SBDC's Administrative Support person. She shared that we have now partnered with the Appalachian Council of Innovation (ACI) and will be providing administrative support in a cost sharing partnership for the SBDC and ACI with the position be classified in a higher rank with higher pay.
- eHealth Technologies update – eHealth Technologies is located at the Crooked Road Technology Center building in Scott County. Hiring for this new company happened very quickly and made



the announcement in December that they wanted to be operational by January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. MECC was able to help the company attract, screen, and hire 30 employees; of which 80% were hired at the recommendation of our faculty from the groups of trained MECC students. eHealth and is a leading provider of clinical information services for recently diagnosed, chronically ill patients needing to be admitted for hospital care on an expedited basis and enables institutions to reduce the time from referral to first appointment by as much as 80 percent. The company's eHealth Connect offers the easiest and fastest way to get a patient's external records, images, and pathology slides in the hands of the clinical team. The company is looking to grow their business to approximately 80 employees by mid-March. She also mentioned her appreciation for faculty members, Jane Jones, Nora Blankenbecler, and Sabrina Ward who worked with students during their break (screening applicants and helping with resumes) in order to help fill these positions.

### Vice President of Institutional Advancement – Dr. Amy Greear

Dr. Amy Greear shared with the Board the following updates:

#### Information Item(s)

Below are highlights from Dr. Greear's report/presentation –

- ❖ The Foundation had faced many challenges in 2020 such as; loss of fundraising events; limited donor interactions; staffing changes; meeting deadlines; change to the VA Tobacco Commission funding for students; and additional student emergency fund needs.
- ❖ 2020 Opportunities:
  - Explore alternative strategies in fundraising and connecting with donors
  - Consolidate resources and explore software updates
  - Identify new/untapped potential sources for Title II funding
  - Increase scholarship distribution for students using sound investment strategies
- ❖ Solutions:
  - Moved fundraising to online events and used email, social media, mailings to generate interest
  - Produced MECC Strong signs/banners in billboards and in downtown Appalachia/Big Stone Gap to reinforce MECC's critical role in our community
  - Approached four private Foundations with requests for funding for Title II Endowment, dual enrollment, and scholarship enhancement
- ❖ Results
  - Raised \$1.04M in 2020 including grant funds
  - Secured \$375,000 gift pledge from the RAPHA Foundation, to support our Title II match and support additional scholarship funding
  - Secured \$50,000 from Slemp Foundation and \$5,000 from Komatsu to support Title III match
  - Thus far, MECC Foundation has distributed \$625,000 in scholarships for summer/fall/spring with more to be awarded
  - Received a legacy gift of at least \$400,000 to support a new scholarship at MECC.
  - Secured \$60,000 in matching grants from Slemp Foundation for future fundraising (Lee County and Buccaneer Scholarships)
  - Secured support from Columbus Phipps Foundation to support free dual enrollment classes at Ridgeview High School
  - Received more than \$500,000 in funding from the Virginia Tobacco Commission for scholarships/CWIA expansion
  - Raised \$10,000 for our Emergency Student Fund/Food Pantry during two online campaigns & purchased new refrigerator and freezer for those programs
  - Assisted with the purchase of new entrance sign for the college



Dr. Greear reported that in terms of gifts, donations have gone down slightly, however, our endowment increased to \$30.6M.

❖ Forward 2021

- The John Fox Jr. Festival will be virtual featuring Authors, Lee Smith, Silas House, and Cassie Chambers
- In-person events planned for April (tentative) through November
- Doubled amount of funding for Mountain Music School and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Home Craft Days.
- An announcement regarding RAPHA funding will be made in late spring of 2021
- Adopting revised bylaws and articles of incorporation for 2021

## COMMITTEE REPORTS – no reports

## OLD/NEW BUSINESS –

**ACTION Item** – Review of College’s Names and Buildings (See Exhibit 4 for details)

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Gary Perdue made a motion that based on the Historical Report that was submitted for review there was not justifiable cause to remove or make any changes to the naming of the College or campus buildings or facility names at this time. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bonnie Elosser and passed unanimously.

Dr. Westover and Dr. Greear will work together on drafting additional policy language that will allow the MECC Advisory Board the opportunity to rename a building or facility at their discretion.

**2021 Professor & Support Staff Emeritus Nominations** - The Emeritus Committees decided that there would not be a new selection for the 2021 Emeritus Awards since last year’s recipients were not recognized due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation) Last year’s recipients were:

- Professor Emeritus – Carolyn Reynolds
- Support Staff Emeritus - Jamie Buckles

The MECC Advisory Board gave their approval.

**President’s Evaluation** – Mr. Baker shared that the Presidential Evaluation survey would be sent out by the Human Resources office to all the college, including Board members in February. Once survey results are composed, the Executive Committee will review and bring a Recommendation Letter to the full Board for approval in May.

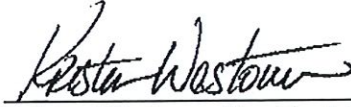
## PUBLIC COMMENTS - none

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Peggy Gibson, Recorder

Respectfully Submitted,



Kristen Westover, President & Secretary to the Board

APPROVED:



3/16/21



## SPRING SEMESTER 2021 PRELIMINARY ENROLLMENT REPORT

<b>HEADCOUNT</b>	<b>1/14/20</b>	<b>1/19/21</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
Full-Time	812	744	(8)
Part-Time	899	905	1
Male	570	540	(5)
Female	1,141	1,109	(3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>1,649</b>	<b>(4)</b>

<b>FTES</b>	<b>1/14/20</b>	<b>1/19/21</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
	1,106	1,055	(5)



# Mountain Empire Community College

## Local Funds Expenditures Ending December 31, 2020

Category	Budget 2020 - 2021	Expenditures To Date	Budget Balance
<b>I. Contributions of Localities:</b>			
<b>A. Maintenance &amp; Operation:</b>			
College Board	\$ 5,000	\$ 24	\$ 4,976
President's Office	\$ 23,000	\$ 3,660	\$ 19,340
Fiscal Operations	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000
Student Aid	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000
Home Craft Days	\$ 35,000	\$ 3,600	\$ 31,400
Mountain Music School	\$ 26,000	\$ -	\$ 26,000
Site Development	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 3,000
<b>Total Maintenance &amp; Operation</b>	<b>\$ 125,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,284</b>	<b>\$ 117,716</b>
<b>B. Small Business Center</b>	<b>\$ 30,250</b>	<b>\$ 27,624</b>	<b>\$ 2,626</b>
<b>Total Contributions of Localities</b>	<b>\$ 155,250</b>	<b>\$ 34,908</b>	<b>\$ 120,342</b>
<b>II. Student Activity Fee &amp; Vending Commissions:</b>			
<b>A. Student Activities</b>	<b>\$ 81,000</b>	<b>\$ 445</b>	<b>\$ 80,555</b>
<b>B. Vending Operation Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4,000</b>	<b>\$ 552</b>	<b>\$ 3,448</b>
<b>Total Student Activity Fee &amp; Vending Commissions</b>	<b>\$ 85,000</b>	<b>\$ 997</b>	<b>\$ 84,003</b>
<b>III. General Auxiliary Fee:</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>
<b>IV. Bookstore</b>			
<b>A. Salaries</b>	<b>\$ 225,000</b>	<b>\$ 140,000</b>	<b>\$ 85,000</b>
<b>B. Textbooks and Supplies</b>	<b>\$ 1,032,000</b>	<b>\$ 353,740</b>	<b>\$ 678,260</b>
<b>C. Operating</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 13,020</b>	<b>\$ 36,980</b>
<b>Total Bookstore</b>	<b>\$ 1,307,000</b>	<b>\$ 506,760</b>	<b>\$ 800,240</b>
<b>V. Contingency and Interest Income</b>			
<b>A. Transfer to capital projects - ADA Compliance</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>
<b>Total Contingency and Interest Income</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>
<b>VI. Construction Projects</b>			
<b>D. Parking Lot Pole and LED Replacement Project</b>	<b>\$ 66,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,047</b>	<b>\$ 58,953</b>
<b>E. Parking Lot B Improvements</b>	<b>\$ 80,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 80,000</b>
<b>Total Construction Projects</b>	<b>\$ 146,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,047</b>	<b>\$ 138,953</b>
<b>TOTAL ALL</b>	<b>\$ 1,843,250</b>	<b>\$ 549,712</b>	<b>\$ 1,293,538</b>



## Personnel Update

January 2020

### Position Changes/New Hires

Nancy Cassell retired after 27 years, 4 months, 4 days – Small Business Development Center Administrative and Office Specialist II.

Hannah Mullins accepted the part-time HR Assistant position starting on January 4, 2021. Hannah resides in Duffield.

Doug Gibson accepted the full-time Talent Search Analyst position starting on January 4, 2021. Doug currently resides in Brevard, North Carolina, but is relocating to our area. Doug grew up in Big Stone Gap, and he is returning to be near family.

Racresha Tess Davis resigned her position as Human Resource Analyst effective January 4, 2021. She left MECC for other employment.

Jacquie Hill submitted her retirement from Admissions Specialist to be effective March 1, 2021, after 17 years of service. Her position has been posted for application.

Tim Blankenbecler submitted his retirement from SBDC Director to be effective February 1, 2021, after 27 years, and 6 months of service.

Kari Paschetto submitted her resignation from Education Support Specialist in Student Services to relocate to western Kentucky with her spouse after four years and 5 months of service.

Jacob Mullins – Student employee hired January 15, 2021, for the Bookstore and funded by the Bookstore.

### Open Positions

Administrative and Office Specialist III – Student Services – This position is on hold at this time while the campus is transitioned to online instruction.

Education Support Specialist II – Library – Grant funded – This position has been released for hire and will be posted soon.

Grant Writer – position on hold but duties continue to be filled by faculty member Derek Whisman.



**Coordinator of Institutional Effectiveness** – new position – Title III Grant funded – Position was opened for applications without a qualified candidate identified. Position on hold at this time with duties being fulfilled by two full-time faculty members, Bethany Arnold and Ken Tucker.

**Human Resources Assistant** – Position has been posted and will close for application on January 25, 2021.

**Financial Aid Specialist** – vacant position – Full-time, State Funded – This position was posted and closed for application. It is on hold at this time while the Department restructures job duties.

**RSVP Career Coach** – vacant position – Part-time, Grant Funded – This position has been filled, and the applicant will start work on January 25, 2021.

**Small Business Development Center Operational and Administrative Support Specialist** – This position is posted for applications through January 22, 2021.

**Small Business Development Center Director** – This full-time, grant-funded position was posted for application and will close on January 24, 2021.

**Admissions Officer** – This full-time, state-funded position was posted for application and will close on January 26, 2021.

**Adjunct Positions** – MECC is currently accepting ongoing applications for adjunct positions in all divisions. The applications will remain open consistently to create a pool of adjunct instructors for the college to pull from when needed.

**Phlebotomy Faculty** – Title III funded position – new position under construction and not yet posted.

**Psychology Faculty** – Title III funded position – new position under construction and not yet posted.

**Dean of Arts & Sciences Division** - Initial search failed to recruit the minimum number applicants who met the minimum requirements. Currently, the role is being filled by Bethany Arnold as Interim Dean. Position rewrite under construction and not yet posted. Expected posting for applications in April 2021.

**Education Support Specialist** – Grant-funded with Snap 50/50 funds – new position under construction and not yet posted.

**Education Support Specialist** – Grant-funded with Great Expectations and Career Coach funds – Position recently vacated by an employee. Position is under construction and not yet posted.



# ***Reviewing the Appropriateness of Community College Facility Names***

**WHEREAS**, demonstrations are inspiring institutions in Virginia and beyond to examine, and in many cases exorcise, symbols of systemic racism that have existed in plain sight for years; and

**WHEREAS**, we feel a responsibility to join that broader conversation and focus a high level of scrutiny on the names that adorn our facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of Virginia's Community Colleges and their shared dedication to the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion demand we examine the names regularly facing our students, faculty, staff, and supporters on their community college journey and determine if those names are consistent with that mission and those values; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board for Community Colleges has authority to determine the names of community colleges and college campuses; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Board has delegated authority to local college advisory boards to approve the names of on-campus facilities,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the State Board ask the local advisory boards of each of our 23 colleges to review the appropriateness of its college, campus(es), and facilities names, and report back to the State Board in 90 days with facility name changes it has made and recommendations regarding college and campus names that should be changed by the State Board.

## **Polices on Naming**

*Our current naming policy allows for buildings to be dedicated based on donations or community support. The policy stresses that the named building or the person for who the building shall be named, should bring the college honor and distinction. However, there is no specific wording that would allow the college to rename a building. Several colleges are now including a caveat that buildings can be renamed. The following is a phrase that could be reconsidered for inclusion in the naming policy:*

***In the case of naming opportunities, Mountain Empire Community College reserves the right to re-name its programs and facilities, in the event of unusual or compelling circumstances, at all times. The College, at the discretion of its Local Board, may exercise this option if a designated name, in its judgment, should bring discredit upon the College. In the event of such re-naming, the College shall have no financial responsibility, despite anything that may be stated or implied to the contrary.***

### **11.5: PRIVATE GIFT ACCEPTANCE (Reference: VCCS Policy 4.5.2)**

The MECC Foundation has adopted and implemented a Gift Acceptance Policy that governs the acceptance of private gifts, including the level and type of gifts to be accepted, as well as the fiscal and administrative procedures to be followed to ensure that gift restrictions are honored. In the event that non-monetary gifts are offered to the MECC Foundation and the gift may have an instructional use, the acceptance of the gift must be approved by the Vice President of Academic and Student

Services, the Executive Director the MECC Foundation, and the President before acceptance. All donors must complete a nonmonetary gift form and value the gift. In some cases, proof of ownership must be established. Donors must be aware that gifts, in certain circumstances, may be sold.

#### **11.6: CAMPUS FACILITY NAMING POLICY AND PROCEDURES (Reference: VCCS Policy Section 2.IX.D.2.c.)**

In accordance with VCCS policy, Mountain Empire Community College has adopted and adheres to a facility naming policy. It uses the policy to provide incentives and recognition for private sector giving to support the college.

##### **11.6.1: PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Campus Facility Naming Policy and Procedures is to provide standard guidelines for the Local Board, the MECC Foundation, and among all departments of Mountain Empire Community College in naming buildings, sites and common areas.

##### **11.6.2: GUIDELINES FOR NAMING OPPORTUNITIES WHEN A SIGNIFICANT GIFT IS RECEIVED**

A. The naming of any building, campus grounds or other campus space is usually only appropriate when a significant gift, or cumulative gifts, are received.

B. Monetary contribution levels for naming opportunities:

<i>Facility Commemoration Opportunities</i>	<i>Suggested Gift Minimums and Ranges</i>
1. New Building	1. 25% of cost of construction
2. Existing Building	2. 25% of construction cost or a lead gift of 25% of the goal for a fund-raising major gifts campaign
3. Endow an Academic Program	3. \$750,000
4. Endow a Specific Initiative (i.e., Distance Learning, Dual Enrollment)	4. \$500,000
5. Endow a Specific Program (i.e., Career Center, Student Support Services, Student Activities)	5. \$300,000
6. Prominent Public Area (Lobby, landscaped Available Areas, Clinical Labs, Academic Division office suites, Bookstore, Administrative office suites)	6. \$100,000 to \$250,000
7. Patio, Classrooms or Laboratories	7. \$50,000 to \$100,000

This list will be reviewed for currency periodically by the Mountain Empire Community College Foundation (the "Foundation").

C. Specific contribution levels may be established with either fixed or minimum dollar amounts for sponsorship of other physical property on campus.

1. Such property may include but is not limited to benches, planters, fountains, gardens, and equipment.
2. Amounts for these naming opportunities shall be reviewed periodically by the Foundation.



### **11.6.3: GUIDELINES FOR NAMING TRIBUTES**

A tribute may be offered for a contribution of time or talent that has had a significant positive impact on the institution over an extended period of years. Individuals are not eligible for this award if currently employed at the college or elsewhere within the Virginia Community College System, serving on the local College Board, or serving on the State Board for Community Colleges. A separation from such employment or service of at least one month is a prerequisite for eligibility. The merits of naming any building campus grounds or other campus space should be determined by carefully weighing one's high scholarship, devotion or distinguished service, and meet the highest values and societal standards. Such honor will typically be recommended no less than three years following the end of the individual's service to the College.

### **11.6.4: GUIDELINES FOR NAMING BASED ON CORPORATE LICENSING**

A. Corporations shall be given the opportunity to purchase a naming license with a name subject to approval by the College Board and the Foundation for a period of time to be negotiated between the College and the donor.

B. The purchasing amount for the naming license shall be a percentage of a standard gift minimum set by the Foundation.

### **11.6.6: AUTHORITY AND APPROVALS**

A. The final authority for any naming or tribute decision rests with the President and the College Board upon the recommendation from the Foundation.

B. The President, the College Board and the Foundation reserve the right to consider any and all factors regarding the privilege of name association with the program, fund or physical aspect of Mountain Empire Community College as particular acts and circumstances warrant. Decisions will be made consistent with the stated mission of Mountain Empire Community College.

C. Prior to approval, the College Board and the Foundation shall have reasonable assurance that:

1. The proposed name shall bring additional honor and distinction to the College.
2. Any philanthropic commitments connected with the naming shall be realized.
3. The College President, upon advice and consent from the College Board and the Foundation, may require that a background check is performed on a donor (living or deceased) or designee based on particular facts and circumstances. The donor, donor's executor, or designee shall be required to sign an authorization allowing the background check, if a background check is determined to be necessary.

D. The College President, in collaboration with the Foundation, has the right to:

1. Determine content, timing, location and frequency of any public announcements associated with the gift.

2. Approve the color, design, and size of any physical marker that provides information about the designee or donor and/or the nature of the gift or honor.

3. Determine and carry out the exact nature of any ongoing care and maintenance of any memorial of tribute gifts or their physical markers.

E. The Guidelines set forth in this policy statement shall not be deemed all-inclusive. The President, College Board and the Foundation reserve the right to consider any and all factors regarding the privilege of name association with the buildings, sites and common areas of Mountain Empire Community College.

### **11.6.7: NAMING CONVENTIONS**

A. A uniform system of signing should be adopted by location.

B. Buildings and areas should have names that include their primary function:

1. Special use buildings or areas such as an auditorium, physical education center, etc. may bear the functional name separately or in combination with the person's name (i.e., Whitman Auditorium)
2. Outdoor areas shall bear the name of the individual and a functional description.

C. Plaques and signage should be tasteful, discrete and consistent with other campus signage.

D. The naming of a building to honor an individual may use the full name of the individual or the surname. In the case of corporations or businesses, the College may use a shortened name sufficient to recognize the business. The reason for this convention is to ensure that the use of the new name becomes commonplace within the lexicon of the College and minimize exterior lettering, listings in directories, mailing addresses and the like.

## **Godwin Hall**

Mills E. Godwin, the 'education governor'

[https://www.insidenova.com/news/education/mills-e-godwin-the-education-governor/article\\_f033b9f0-e9e7-11e5-ac41-d3fab39a9fa0.html](https://www.insidenova.com/news/education/mills-e-godwin-the-education-governor/article_f033b9f0-e9e7-11e5-ac41-d3fab39a9fa0.html)

In August 1971, when then-Prince William Superintendent Stuart Beville welcomed Gov. Mills E. Godwin to the newly-opened Dale City middle school bearing his name, Beville called him, "the education governor." "Seldom in Virginia, has any man laid his name on the line for public education as did Governor Godwin," Beville told the audience, which included then-school board member Clay Woods and Prince William Supervisor Dr. A.J. Ferlazzo. Godwin, who died at age 84 in 1999, was a two-term governor credited with establishing the state's first sales tax, which provided badly needed funding for public schools and helped launch the state's community college system. But for all his accomplishments, Godwin's legacy is complicated by his leadership, in the 1950s, of the "Massive Resistance" movement.

That was the name of the official heel-digging that compelled Virginia officials to close public schools rather than open them to black children, as was mandated by the Brown vs. State Board of Education Supreme Court decision.



"I opposed the integration of schools because I felt it couldn't be done as immediately as the Supreme Court suggested," Godwin said during a 1992 interview with the Daily Press. "It would take time for the cooling of passions. I think we did buy some time, and some valuable time." In that interview, Godwin acknowledged regrets about how the state treated black children but he never apologized. "It was rather obvious that for the black population and the black schools we had not done what we should have done," Godwin said. "While we lived harmoniously with them, they had been denied much of what they were entitled to."

- 1947 - elected to the General Assembly
- 1952 - elected to the state Senate
- 1961 - elected lieutenant governor
- 1965 - elected governor as a Democrat. During his tenure, the community college system was founded and a sales tax approved, enlarging the state budget by 42 percent
- 1973 - elected governor again, this time as a Republican, becoming the first person in Virginia history to hold that position for two terms

<https://www.nytimes.com/1999/02/02/us/mills-godwin-jr-84-ruled-virginia-as-democrat-and-republican.html>

Mr. Godwin was the only two-term Governor for the Commonwealth of Virginia since the Civil War, and he served his terms eight years apart -- elected in 1965 as a Democrat and in 1973 as a Republican. He epitomized the end of an era dominated by the Democratic machine of Harry F. Byrd Sr., whose organization ran Virginia politics from the 1920's to the 1960's.

In his first term, Mr. Godwin broke with the policies of the Byrd machine and was able to piece together a mainline conservative coalition that attracted labor leaders and the rank and file, African-Americans and whites, liberals as well as conservatives.

With such broad support he was able to build roads, overhaul the state Constitution and tap a new source of revenue in the form of sales taxes. His legacy was a community college system that gave Virginia an educational basis for economic growth.

Born a farm boy in Chuckatuck, Va., Mills Godwin was a 1938 law graduate of the University of Virginia and practiced law in his home county, Nansmond, until 1960. He was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1947 and to the State Senate in 1952. It was in the Senate that he became a pillar of his state's policy of "massive resistance" to the racial integration of schools. He vowed that there would be no compromise on the issue. But that intransigence shattered in the late 1950's, and he eventually argued that Virginia just needed time to adjust to the inevitable.

He was elected lieutenant governor in 1961 and governor four years later. He later left the splintering Democratic Party and was elected to a second four-year term as a Republican in 1973.

After his second term, he worked as a business consultant and corporate director.

[https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Godwin\\_Mills\\_E\\_1914-1999#start\\_entry](https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Godwin_Mills_E_1914-1999#start_entry)

Mills Godwin was complicated. He did real active harm to the state as well as real active good. He was a member of the notoriously racist Byrd Political Machine and may or may not have been called "The Chairman of Massive Resistance." (currently waiting for a copy of a letter he received that supposedly refers to him as such). Doubts remain about the legitimacy of the claim that he was openly called this. There is no doubt that Godwin was a leader in the Southern Massive Resistance Movement and closed schools in Virginia in an attempt to prevent integration. He gave a speech in 1961 where he outwardly said "I make no apology" in regards to "any measure to keep the races separate." A video of

this segment of the speech is archived. He supposedly sent a letter to an Alleghany County school official on the matter of segregation, as well as other letters both personal and private that may touch on the subject, however none have been located through research. Godwin was the governor who formed the Virginia Community College System. He funded it through the use of a sales tax that revolutionized the VA economy. He also turned away from the failing Byrd Political Machine and denounced it by endorsing Lyndon Johnson's campaign and progressive ideas. The latter part of his political career demonstrated his moderated views where he did a lot of work with positives outcomes for Virginia.

## Robb Hall

### Senator Charles Spittal Robb

From History of Mountain Empire Community College:

"Ms. Imogene Sturgill, Board member, moved that the college name the proposed building 'Charles Robb Hall' and her motion passed by a unanimous vote. The Board noted the precedent of naming MECC buildings after former governors of Virginia." "While there had been praise for Governor Robb's support of education in his proposed budget, Ficker noted that no community college project received funding in the final budget. Some people, disappointed, questioned changing the College Board's decision to name the new building after Robb, but Ficker said he did not foresee that happening" pg. 151; 1984-1988

Yancey, D. Charles S. "Chuck" Robb. (2014, January 5). In Encyclopedia Virginia. Retrieved from [http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org/Robb\\_Charles\\_S\\_1939-](http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org/Robb_Charles_S_1939-)

- Served in U.S. Marine Corps from 1961-1970
- Elected in 1977 as Lt. Governor
- Elected in 1982 as Governor
- Elected in 1988 and 1994 as U.S. Senator from Virginia
- Considered a moderate Democrat
- "he appointed a record number of women and minorities to state offices"
- "appointed John Charles Thomas, the state's first African American justice"
- As Senator was ensnared by three scandals
  - "socialized at parties in Virginia Beach where cocaine and prostitutes were present"
  - "a former beauty queen—Tai Collins, Miss Virginia USA in 1983—claimed she had once had an affair with him while he was governor"
  - Staff members were indicted for illegally taping phone conversations of Lt. Governor Doug Wilder
- "one of only eleven Democrats to vote to confirm Clarence Thomas [conservative] as a justice on the U.S. Supreme Court"
- "backed U.S. president Bill Clinton's 'don't ask, don't tell' . . . voted against the Defense of Marriage Act"

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1981/08/25/virginia-official-recommends-dropping-affirmative-action/27cc5945-714b-41d0-9859-9f17c5581ac1/>

- 08-25-1981
- In the context of Kenneth Yancey, Virginia's state personnel director, call for "the state government to abolish affirmative action plans that give special employment advantages to minorities and women" which was then withdrawn



- “Robb, . . . said: ‘I remain committed to affirmative action and my administration will work faithfully to see that additional progress is made with equal employment at all levels of state government.’”

<https://www.nytimes.com/1981/11/02/us/race-issue-erupts-in-virginia-governor-race.html>

- 11-02-1981
- “Mr. Robb’s longstanding support of post-card voter registration, a proposal designed to encourage greater minority participation in elections.”
- “proposal for a ‘set-aside’ of state contracts to minority-owned businesses”

<https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:Nk4dzxXdatEJ:https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1983/01/28/va-college-desegregation-plan-is-approved/9976aac2-b9de-4980-9bd1-ad5ccdfef80e/+&cd=11&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>

- 01-28-1983
- “Virginia and the federal government have agreed on a plan for the integration of the state’s colleges and universities, this time at a cost of \$16 million over three years”
- “was applauded today by Gov. Charles S. Robb and top legislators, who must approve funding for the plan”

[https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:n00tpccNk\[cJ:https://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-xpm-19890120-1989-01-20-8901200064-story.html+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us](https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:n00tpccNk[cJ:https://www.dailypress.com/news/dp-xpm-19890120-1989-01-20-8901200064-story.html+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us)

- 02-20-1989
- “In 1984, members of the General Assembly and then-Gov. Chuck Robb agreed to honor King with a state holiday.”
- “Robb’s predecessor, John Dalton, vetoed the bill, because it also eliminated Election Day as a holiday”

<https://www.congress.gov/member/charles-robb/R000295?searchResultViewType=expanded>

- Co-sponsored multiple resolutions for designations of weeks as “National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week”
- Co-sponsored amendment “To provide funds for a grant program to restore and preserve historic buildings at historically black colleges and universities.”
- Co-sponsored Civil Rights act of 1990

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1982/04/16/robb-orders-no-tax-exemption-for-segregated-virginia-schools/8e55dadf-6a46-4a68-8d39-84069aeb85b4/>

- 01-16-1982
- “hoping to head off a third-party U.S. Senate race by his chief black supporter, today ordered the state tax department to refuse tax exemptions for segregated schools The Democratic governor said he issued the regulation, which will take effect immediately, to distinguish Virginia tax law from a Reagan administration policy change in January that could allow tax breaks for more than 100 racially discriminatory academies around the country, including at least 11 in Virginia”

- [https://www.pbs.org/newshour/spc/election2000/races/robb\\_bio.html](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/spc/election2000/races/robb_bio.html)

- From 2000 election news
- “Known as a fiscal conservative but a social progressive”
- “Calling himself an ‘education governor,’ Robb added \$1 billion to the education budget and made Virginia teacher’s salaries the highest in the Southeast”
- “earned the endorsement of the Virginia Education Association”
- “appointed considerable numbers of blacks and women to top positions”
- “Robb has been known to take unpopular stances in the senate such as supporting equal rights for homosexuals and tax increases, and opposing a constitutional amendment banning flag burning”



- “Robb was the only Democrat to vote for all six major Republican initiatives in 1995, yet he also opposed tax cuts and voted for a ban on job discrimination against gays in 1996. He voted repeatedly to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.”

## Dalton-Cantrell Hall

### Governor John Nichols Dalton

Library of Virginia: [https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.php?b=Dalton John Nichols](https://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/dvb/bio.php?b=Dalton%20John%20Nichols)

Elected to House of Delegates in 1965, 1967, and 1969

Elected to House of Delegates in 1971 after reapportionment

Elected in Special Election in 1972 to Senate of Virginia

Elected in 1973 as Lt. Governor of Virginia

Elected in 1977 as Governor of Virginia

Settled legal dispute with federal government over higher education desegregation

The Virginia News Letter: The Legacy of Governor Dalton

[https://vig.coopercenter.org/sites/vig/files/Virginia News Letter 2000%2C Vol. 76%2C No. 6.pdf](https://vig.coopercenter.org/sites/vig/files/Virginia%20News%20Letter%202000%2C%20Vol.%2076%2C%20No.%206.pdf)

<https://usmodernist.org/AIAVA/AIAVA-1978-01.pdf>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1977/09/15/college-desegregation-addressed/0f3f995e-51c7-4bce-9920-1d90e3442a1d/>

09-15-1977

“Republican gubernatorial nominee John N. Dalton said today that Virginia is now offering equal college opportunities for everyone and should resist what he calls federal quotas for minority enrollments.”

“Dalton, like Godwin, cited steady growth in the percentage of Virginia college students who are black and increases in white enrollment at one of the two predominantly black schools as proof that Virginia’s desegregation plan is working.”

“He said he expects white ratios at the black schools to continue to rise, but added, ‘I don’t think black Virginians want us to change these schools by federal edict.’ ”

<https://blackfireuva.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/1977-1978-bsa-report1.pdf>

UVA Black Student Alliance report 1977-1978

“Governor John N. Dalton appointed Dr. Frank S. Royal as the first Black member to the Board of Visitors”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1977/12/13/dalton-appoints-black-woman-va-human-resources-secretary/351c11bc-3edf-41cd-9d11-2472b9cb4233/>

12-13-1977

“Virginia Gov.-elect John N. Dalton today selected Dr. Jean L. Harris, a former Howard University Medical School professor, to be the state’s secretary of human resources. She will be the first woman and the first black person to fill a high-level, policy-making state government position in Virginia’s history.”

“...early step toward fulfillment of his campaign promises to bring more black Virginians and women into top government jobs.”

<https://books.google.com/books?id=mVSDZC-dbhYC&pg=PA24&lpg=PA24&dq=virginia+governor+John+Dalton+%22civil+rights%22&source=bl&ots=sPqENxD7kh&sig=ACfU3U2aPKvmNTkn3w3JgJ3TFiiA2Pd1hw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiNxfy1j->



[HrAhXkmeAKHdPmARg4RhDoATAEegQIChAB#v=onepage&q=virginia%20governor%20John%20Dalton%20%22civil%20rights%22&f=false](https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1978/03/18/va-agrees-to-college-desegregation/d3359813-1ee0-4d61-81cd-729b971172f1/)

In the context of Sex Discrimination and Title VII in Virginia

"Governor John N. Dalton also issued an executive order that included the language and provisions of Executive Order No.1 issued by his predecessor. However, employees in the legislative and judicial branches of State government and faculty members of State-supported institutions of higher education were exempted unless the executive order was adopted by the governing boards of those institutions. At Governor Dalton's direction, the secretary of administration and finance asked the institutions to adopt Executive Order No. 1 in February 1978 by appealing to their governing boards for such approval. Approval was unanimous (source includes references for original source material)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1978/03/18/va-agrees-to-college-desegregation/d3359813-1ee0-4d61-81cd-729b971172f1/>  
03-18-1978

"The State of Virginia agreed to further desegregate its system of higher education yesterday by increasing the enrollment of black students at predominantly white universities by 150 percent during the next five years."

"In addition, the plan state that Virginia officials will give priority consideration to the two black colleges when state officials are deciding where to place new undergraduate and graduate degree programs."

"Virginia Gov. John N. Dalton said, 'I believe that if we proceed in good faith in accordance with the objectives and schedules in the plan, we will at last have reached a permanent accord with federal authorities on this vitally important matter.' "

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1979/09/18/bastion-of-virginia-tradition/44f67717-e521-4df3-9cad-a19a96d8554c/>  
09-18-1979

"Here [The Commonwealth Club], when members toast "Mr. President," it is said they raise their glasses to a portrait of Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy."

"State Sen. L. Douglas Wilder (D-Richmond), the only black in the 40-member Senate, calls the Commonwealth Club, 'a racist club, a retreat from the world where social gains are being made.'

"Club regulations prohibit women members and until recently all women were supposed to use a side entrance. By tradition, no black -- not even Richmond's mayor, lawyer Henry Marsh -- has ever been invited to join."

"among them [Virginia's elite] U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell, Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr., Gov. John N. Dalton, former Gov. Mills E. Godwin Jr., and Clement F. Haynsworth, chief justice of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals here."

"blacks now attend club functions as guests without any fanfare, the only regular black visitors there are the servants."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1981/03/24/dalton-vetoes-kings-birthday-holiday-measure/ae5ad1cc-2865-4296-adc8-24cd0d114c34/>  
03-24-1981

"Virginia Gov. John N. Dalton, bowing to intense pressure from conservatives, today vetoed a bill that would have made Virginia the first southern state to honor slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King with a state holiday."

"said in a statement that he vetoed the bill because it would have eliminated Election Day as a state holiday and he said it would be 'more appropriate' to honor native Virginians such as Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry or Booker T. Washington."



"Coleman today supported Dalton's veto, saying King's birthday should continue to be coupled with New Year's Day on Jan. 1, as approved by the legislature and approved by Dalton in 1978."  
"black leaders accused the governor of insensitivity to the state's black community and noted that Virginia has a state holiday honoring Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson."  
"Letters on the King bill came from two groups, old-guard conservatives led by former governor Mills E. Godwin, who vetoed a similar measure in 1977"

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1981/08/25/virginia-official-recommends-dropping-affirmative-action/27cc5945-714b-41d0-9859-9f17c5581ac1/>  
08-25-1981

In the context of Kenneth Yancey, Virginia's state personnel director, call for "the state government to abolish affirmative action plans that give special employment advantages to minorities and women" which was then withdrawn

Governor Dalton responded "Mr. Yancey has not spoken to me about any dilution of Virginia's affirmative action program, nor have I authorized any change in my executive order on affirmative action . . . That executive order remains in full force and effect, and I have no intention of making changes to it"

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1986/08/01/john-nichols-dalton/394a9a8a-cbf7-41a6-b2a8-46f11ee0a932/>  
08-01-1986

The Dalton years "saw the inclusion of more blacks and women in government ranks than in any time before."

<https://www.vox.com/the-highlight/21279808/robert-e-lee-confederate-statue-monument-avenue-richmond-racism-george-floyd>  
06-24-2020

Revisits Dalton's membership as noted in the above 1979 article while discussing Richmond's Monument Avenue

"One need travel only a couple of miles from Monument Avenue to find the Commonwealth Club, an exclusive social club that, for a century, was both all-white and all-male."

"Past members reportedly include Supreme Court Justice Lewis Powell, US Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr., governors John Dalton and Mills Godwin, . . ."

## Delegate Orby L. Cantrell

Served Virginia House of Delegates from Southwest Virginia districts from 1952-1982

Most of what was found relevant to the current review referenced only the Gray Commission which is described below, while extreme by today's standards the Gray commission was thought to be a moderate approach by some lawmakers and Virginian's of the time. Due to the culture of the span of time that Orby Cantrell represented our region there may be a legislative history that could be further investigated but I have not found such a history online or at the Lonesome Pine Library in Wise.

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:Dltc3Kl8PuEJ:www.dailypress.com/news/dp-xpm-19970804-1997-08-04-9708040019-story.html+&cd=7&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us>

"served the Wise area as a delegate for more than 30 years"

"Cantrell stuck to the little issues: Wise County needed more money for Routes 58 and 23, which were falling apart and barely wide enough for two trucks to pass. Schools were in disrepair and needed fixing. Clinch Valley College needed to expand."



"He came up with the tipple tax. For every ton of coal brought to a tipple for unloading, there would be a tax. And the money from that tax would go toward repairing and building schools and other educational needs."

E. Griffith Dodson, *The General Assembly of Virginia 1939-1960* (Richmond: Virginia State Library 1961) p. 311

Appointed by Governor Thomas Bahnsen Stanley to the Commission on Public Education in 1954 aka the Gray Commission

<https://www.lva.virginia.gov/exhibits/brown/resistance.htm>

Gray Commission formed in reaction to *Brown v. Board of Education*

Part of Massive Resistance movement

Proposal included:

that laws concerning school attendance be amended so that no child would be required to attend an integrated school,

that funds be allocated as tuition grants for parents who opposed schools comprised of white and black students, and

that local school boards be authorized to assign white and African American students to particular schools.

"Governor Stanley ruled out control of anti-integration efforts at the local level and proposed to deny state appropriations to schools that integrated. Gray and the other commission members repudiated their report (which recommended what the Governor was proposing) and supported his plan"

<http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/civilrightstv/glossary/topic-009.html>

"The Court's action was far reaching in its importance because it was 'judicial legislation' and threatened 'the fundamental . . . rights of the states.'"

"detailed what it saw as progress in Virginia's educational system, . . . Virginia employed more black teachers (some 6,000) than all of the non-Southern states combined. Progress in public education . . . would have been impossible without segregation, and progress for black children would have been doubly impossible without segregation."

"The Commission concluded that segregation was best for both races and that 'compulsory integration should be resisted by all proper means in our power.'"

"The Gray Commission wanted to give local school boards "wide discretion" to deal with desegregation, but it was more than willing to tolerate the closing of local public schools"

the Commission clearly saw the localities as the government closest to the people and, therefore, in a position to accomplish most effectively what the state might not--avoiding what it consistently called 'enforced integration.'"

"the Gray Commission's recommendations were perceived widely to allow some integration in localities that allowed it. Its 'local option' approach was abandoned in the rush to massive resistance in 1956"

<https://books.google.com/books?id=YzQt-37dCoUC&pg=PT90&lpg=PT90&dq=virginia+gray+commission+Orby+Cantrell&source=bl&ots=p0TwbWCqK5&sig=ACfU3U3ppSaWG5M9nkzKxqWJkiVst4awQQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjRhrqHmuHrAhWnc98KHfGMDX84ChDoATAHegQIChAB#v=onepage&q=virginia%20gray%20commission%20Orby%20Cantrell&f=false>

"In order to get harmony on the tuition grant bill, Fenwich proposed an amendment that would provide a state equalization fund to help out the communities whose schools would be crippled I large amounts of their school funds were used for such grants. This was generous of him, since Charlie's senatorial district has almost no Negroes and his constituents would be paying extra taxes to help Black Belt counties. Shaffer of Shenandoah County and Cantrell of Wise County, situated

## Phillips Taylor Hall

Phillips Taylor Hall was named after two local sisters, Nell Taylor Phillips and French Taylor. The two sisters, who were educators in Big Stone Gap and East Stone Gap K-12 schools, made a significant donation to the college. They were the daughters of George Taylor, president of Virginia Coke and Iron. The building was dedicated to them in 1998. No information was located that would indicate any issue with their history and relation to the community and the college.

## Holton Hall

Abner Linwood Holton Jr.: A brief report of the Major Harms and Benefits of the Holton years to the Commonwealth of Virginia

Abner Linwood Holton Jr. is a significant local figure in the Big Stone Gap area, being born in the town itself in 1923 and being the only Virginia resident hailing from Big Stone Gap to achieve the Governor's seat. It would be a subjective statement, but easy to say, that he is likely the highest politically achieving figure with direct ties to the town. This fact is not one that should be taken lightly when researching the racial history of Linwood Holton, considering his strong ties to the very town in which Mountain Empire resides.

Holton took the office of governor in 1970 following Mills Godwin. One of his first notable actions was to form a task force to evaluate the operations of the state government and its departments. One such department being the still infant Virginia Community College System. This task force returned with the "Commonwealth of Virginia Governor's Management Study Survey and Recommendations Plan." Much of the plan is irrelevant for the purposes of this report. But one notable aspect of the Governor's Management Study plan that was adopted two years after the initial submission of the plan was the formation of the Commonwealth of Virginia Governor's Cabinet, which contained the position of the Secretary of Education. The VCCS still reports to this position to this day. While it is difficult to say exactly to what degree this operational change had on VCCS funding, it is not unreasonable to suggest that this compartmentation of the government functions of state meant that departments of the state would see more focused attention and funding from their specific cabinet security than they would have otherwise with the old centralized system. In 1972 the funding for the VCCS was \$42,876,040

(1). When JLARC reviewed the VCCS again, they showed that in 1990, \$269,781,269 was budgeted to the VCCS (2). This shows an increase of 529.21% from the time before the VCCS had a dedicated Secretary of Education to report to under the Cabinet plan that Holton created. Again, it is difficult to say exactly how much of this increase is directly attributable to this single change. A large portion of it would have occurred naturally with expanding colleges and increased FTE counts. But it is believed that the compartmentation of the state government was a direct benefit to the VCCS and by proxy MECC saw and increase in funding of from \$2,153,240 in 1974 (3) to 6,083,352 in 1990 (2) Holton has a demonstrated direct link to the community of Big Stone Gap, VA and links to a direct benefit to the VCCS and MECC through his policies. There were no major instances of racial injustice perpetrated by Holton, nor was there any behavior that would be defined as troubling and thus would require reporting in this document. The only questionable instance that was discovered is in a response to a letter from George M. Modlin in 1970. Mr. Modlin, the president of the University of Richmond at the time, wrote to Holton to complain and to request assistance regarding what Modlin described as Interference with Virginia Institutions of Higher Education by the Office of Civil Rights. (4) Mr. Modlin's letter to Governor Holton was a direct result of a Richmond Dispatch article that covered the recommendations of one Dr. Severinson on how Mr. Modlin's University can better comply with the Office of Civil Rights and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare's



recommendations on Non-Discrimination practices that were sent to the University of Richmond on October 1st, 1970. The article also makes mention of this comment made by the HEW, "[The University of Richmond] still projects an image of exclusive all-white 'Southern' institution." (5) Holton's response to Mr. Modlin was "This matter is giving me great concern, but I have reason to be optimistic that there will be a better attitude in the future on the part of HEW officials who will be dealing with Virginia schools. We are here reviewing the correspondence between Dr. Severinson and several Virginia schools." (6) This response when viewed by 2020 standards is not an acceptable response from a Governor to a University President who is asking for the Governor to step in and stop the interference of the Department of Civil Rights. When viewed through the lens of the 1970s, the first year of office for Governor Holton, it becomes clear that this response was not one of support for Mr. Modlin but that of a first year Governor trying to keep a neutral and mild-tempered approach to prevent alienation of the Virginia residents of the time. Nonetheless, some individuals have viewed this response as supporting Mr. Modlin. So, the author believed it was appropriate to report on. In Holton's Inaugural speech on the 17th of January 1970, he made a direct mention to his views on race in the Commonwealth of Virginia: "Here in Virginia we must see that no citizen is excluded from full participation in both the blessing and the responsibility of our society because of his race. As Virginia has been a model for so much else in America in the past, let us now endeavor to make today's Virginia a model of race relations" (7) This was not just political bluster and empty words. Holton backed up his inaugural address throughout his governance. Holton's first act of governor was to forbid by law race discrimination in hiring (7). Holton also appointed several African Americans to his administration, including a Roanoke Valley School teacher to serve as a direct Liaison between the governor and the often-neglected African American communities of Virginia. (8). And then most famously there is the 1970 photo: 1970 was a racially charged year not only for America but more directly for Richmond, Virginia. In order to comply with desegregation requirements and a federally mandated plan that was in part a result of Godwin's "Massive Resistance" Campaign, Richmond city kids were assigned to schools throughout the city and bussed there. Under the plan, Holton's daughter was assigned to John F. Kennedy High School, a nearly all-black school in 1970. Holton very likely could have used his position of power to change this assignment or arrange private education for her. But in the fall of 1970 on the first day of school, Abner Holton and Capitol Police Officer A.P. Tucker walked Tayloe Holton across the parking lot towards the doors of John F. Kennedy High School. A photographer of the Richmond Dispatch was present at the scene and captured a famous photograph. (8) Newspapers across the nation plastered this photo on the front page. Many people were outraged by it, but some were incredibly proud of the photo. Former Governor Colgate Darden wrote Holton a letter and said that the photograph "represent[ed] the most significant happening in this Commonwealth in my lifetime." (9) When viewed through the lens of history, no one is perfect. Good and evil are relative terms that lose their meaning completely when put inside of a vacuum without context and are terms that become blurred when viewed through hindsight. What one person's views as theft, another person views as feeding his family. As a lover and student of history, the author cannot say whether Linwood Holton was good or evil. All that can be stated is he was much better on the specific issue of race than most politicians of the time. When given the task of performing this research by Dr. Westover, the author stated to her that he would very much just like to put down the facts uncovered on paper and hand them in without giving an opinion on the matters. However, after discovering Holton's very unusual actions for the time he was in, the author would be regretful if he did not express his opinion on this matter. Linwood Holton went against the grain that countless men of the time in his position would have not only followed but fought to preserve. He took measurable active and decisive steps to include the African American community in the government that had previously been shut off to them. He led by example with his own family during a time of racial turmoil in Virginia. It is the author's opinion that of all of the buildings of Mountain Empire Community College, Holton Hall is the one namesake to be truly proud of, as it reflects favorably on Mountain Empire and the VCCS.



- (1) United States, Commonwealth of Virginia, Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission. Program Evaluation The Virginia Community College System, 1975, p. 6.
- (2) United States, Commonwealth of Virginia, Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission. Program Evaluation The Virginia Community College System, 1991, p. 61
- (3) United States, Commonwealth of Virginia, Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission. Program Evaluation The Virginia Community College System, 1975, p. S-3
- (4) Dodlin, George M. "Letter from George M. Modlin." Received by LINWOOD HOLTON, 8 Oct. 1970, Richmond, VA.
- (5) "Dispel Image, HEW Tells UR." Richmond Dispatch, 5 Oct. 1970.
- (6) Holton, Abner Linwood. "Letter Responding to George M. Modlin." Received by GEORGE M. MODLIN, 12 Oct. 1970, Richmond, VA.
- (7) "The Holton Years." State Records Film Collection, Accession 43563, 1974.
- (8) Contributed by James H. Hershman Jr. "A. Linwood Holton (1923-)." Holton, A. Linwood (1923- ), [www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Holton\\_A\\_Linwood\\_1923-](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Holton_A_Linwood_1923-).
- (10) Tim Kaine. Kaine is a U.S. Senator from Virginia. "Kaine: Holton Is Model for Public Service." Roanoke Times, 21 Sept. 2018, [roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/kaine-holton-is-model-for-public-service/article\\_032f809a-efff-5ced-bd9e-f70ea359998c.html](http://roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/kaine-holton-is-model-for-public-service/article_032f809a-efff-5ced-bd9e-f70ea359998c.html).