NEW INITIATIVES

Regional Higher Education Centers
Year in Review
2017–2018
• Accessible, high quality education in three convenient locations — Peninsula, Tri-Cities and Virginia Beach.

• State-of-the-art academic facilities that offer resources to support success and accelerate time to degree completion especially among commuter, transfer and adult students who navigate our transportation-challenged area.

• Select graduate and undergraduate degrees, certificates and continuing education programs offered in traditional, web-based and hybrid formats.

• Conference, training and professional development space for academic departments, local school divisions, municipalities, businesses and nonprofits.

Old Dominion University’s Regional Higher Education Centers serve as bridges to the University, providing:
It was summer 2005 when, on the wings of a major university initiative to expand our Virginia Beach programming, I migrated east from the College of Arts and Letters on the main campus to become the director of the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center (VBHEC).

That same year, the faculty of the School of Nursing invited me to their retreat, held at a faculty member’s home in Chesapeake, and with remarkable prescience said, “If you build it, we will come.” Indeed, well before the City of Virginia Beach identified the Princess Anne Commons corridor as a hub of health and bioscience innovation, the faculty of the School of Nursing saw an opportunity to expand their mission and reach in Virginia Beach; however, at the time—before the migration of many academic programs to online—there was no room.

Flash forward and—thanks to the leadership of President John R. Broderick and Provost Augustine Agho—“Voila!” Time has come. As you’ll read in these pages, recent months entailed both a space swap with our VBHEC partner, Norfolk State University, and a remarkably tight schedule of renovation, construction and technology installation to prepare for the expanded School of Nursing come fall 2018. The result is beautiful and functional: the School can now establish a Telehealth Training Center for the benefit of our students, the region, Commonwealth and beyond.

Meanwhile, all three of the university’s Regional Higher Education Centers have been agile in establishing new one-stop Transfer Centers, hosting recruitment events for graduate and undergraduate programs, and providing academic success services to students whether they’re pursing coursework on-site, online, or on the Norfolk campus.

In our transportation-challenged region where more than 60 percent of all jobholders cross local boundaries just getting to work, the Peninsula, Tri-Cities and Virginia Beach centers present a hometown advantage for our diverse and busy commuters, saving them time, money and stress, not to mention carbon footprint. Go Monarchs!

Renée Olander
Associate Vice President & Assistant Professor
To embrace emerging technologies and address a critical shortage of healthcare providers in Virginia, Old Dominion University is significantly expanding its health sciences programs at ODU Virginia Beach.

Starting in fall 2018, ODU Virginia Beach will offer upper-level undergraduate and graduate courses in nursing and telehealth training, providing students hands-on opportunities in dynamic new classrooms. That effort will place 350 students and 45 faculty members at the center, bringing the total to nearly 1,300.

“I am confident this initiative will position ODU and Hampton Roads for national prominence in healthcare innovation, research, telehealth and simulation technology,” said Old Dominion University President John R. Broderick.

Karen Karlowicz, chair of the ODU School of Nursing, expressed similar enthusiasm. “The faculty and staff of the School of Nursing are extremely excited about the expansion to the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center,” she said. “This will enable us to increase the size of our clinical simulation training facilities to accommodate growing enrollments in our undergraduate and graduate programs.”

Expanding these programs required a reimagining of—and investment in—existing spaces. During the spring and summer, 10 classrooms were converted into a variety of instructional, assessment and office spaces, including a 10-bed hospital ward, 14 telehealth training rooms, two Simulation Training Assessment Rooms (STAR-ICU), one mother-baby room, and offices to accommodate 35 additional faculty members and staff.

“The faculty and staff of the School of Nursing are extremely excited about the expansion to the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center. This will enable us to increase the size of our clinical simulation training facilities to accommodate growing enrollments in our undergraduate and graduate programs.”

—Karen Karlowicz, chair of the ODU School of Nursing
NEW PLANS Blueprints show the plans for the nursing suite renovations on the second floor of ODU Virginia Beach.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION
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MORE THAN
70% of healthcare providers are using telehealth or telemedicine tools to connect with patients in inpatient and ambulatory settings.

To make the expansion possible, ODU negotiated with Norfolk State University, a VBHEC partner, on a major space swap that allocated nearly an entire wing of the facility to the School of Nursing. The swap, which encompassed more than 3,800 square feet, including 21 classrooms and offices, allows for closer communication between the School of Nursing and Nurse Anesthesia Graduate Program—which are now located on the same floor at VBHEC.

Beyond the transformation of physical spaces, VBHEC also worked to prepare a warm welcome for new students and faculty, including a “Week of Welcome” and orientation activities to showcase the support services and amenities available on-site as well as in the neighborhood.

The move complements ODU’s health-sciences presence in Norfolk, introducing high-demand graduate programs in Virginia Beach. The expansion will also enhance the ability of faculty members and upper-level students to conduct pioneering healthcare research.

Provost Augustine Agho said the new initiatives put ODU in line with national trends—and give students a competitive edge in the future.

“ODU will be one of a select few universities that is positioned to provide valuable telehealth training to undergraduate and graduate students—our healthcare providers of tomorrow,” Agho said. “Teaching students as well as community healthcare providers to use this innovative technology will have far-reaching effects on residents in Hampton Roads, as well as provide critical support for providers and patients in rural and underserved communities throughout Virginia and beyond.”

TIGHT TIMELINE Construction workers put in extra hours to ensure the space would be ready for fall 2018.
Meet, Greet and Grow
Transfer Centers Launch Across Hampton Roads

ODU celebrated the opening of its one-stop Transfer Centers March 27 at ODU Virginia Beach, ODU Tri-Cities and ODU Peninsula. Working with the Center for Advising Administration and Academic Partnerships, staff from the Regional Centers developed Transfer Centers to streamline onboarding to the University. The kickoff event featured representatives from Admissions, Career Development Services, Financial Aid, Military Connection Center, Transfer Initiatives and Transfer Mentors. Current and prospective students were invited to connect and learn about ODU. “I am extremely excited that the four Transfer Centers are already assisting prospective transfer students with the transition to ODU. Given the centers’ proximity to TCC and TNCC, we are well positioned to prepare students for a successful transfer experience,” said Daniela Cigularova, director of transfer advising and admissions.

**Services Provided at the Transfer Centers:**
- Guide students through the letter of intent process and selection of appropriate AS, AA, AA&S degree and/or AAS articulation agreement for transfer to ODU.
- Advise students through VCCS guided pathways to consider ODU major options.
- Provide transitional programming for transfer students to connect them with campus resources and the ODU community.
- Refer students to appropriate academic adviser for goal setting, degree planning and course selection, once admitted.

**Did you know?**

ODU is the **No. 1 transfer institution** for students transferring from Tidewater Community College and Thomas Nelson Community College. **Over 8,100 currently enrolled undergraduate ODU students are transfer students.**

ODU leads the way in transfer pathways, with **over 200 individual program articulation agreements.**

**FUTURE PLANNING** Students meet with ODU staff at the Transfer Tuesday launch event at ODU Peninsula.

**TRANSFER READY** Ellen McClintock, ODU Tri-Cities enrollment services specialist; Tania Alvarez, transfer advising coordinator; and Diane Graham, recruiting consultant, staff the Transfer Centers launch event at ODU Tri-Cities on March 27.
Each year the regional centers host appreciation luncheons for the academic advisers and counselors at our closest community college partners, Tidewater Community College (TCC) and Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC). On May 21, ODU Peninsula hosted its 4th annual luncheon, while June marked the 13th annual event at ODU Virginia Beach and the 7th year at ODU Tri-Cities. “The events were a great opportunity to share information about programs and nurture the relationships that facilitate seamless transitions for students onboarding to ODU from our valued community college partners,” said Renée Olander, associate vice president of regional higher education centers.

Among the highlights from the event:
• 22 counselors and advisers from both TNCC campuses—Hampton and Historic Triangle in Williamsburg—attended the 2018 appreciation luncheon.
• 28 counselors from all four TCC campuses—Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach—attended the 2018 appreciation luncheons.
• More than 20 representatives from various ODU offices participated in the 2018 luncheons, hailing from:
  • Advising and Transfer Programs
  • Admissions
  • Distance Learning
  • Financial Aid
  • College of Arts and Letters
  • College of Health Sciences
  • Strome College of Business
  • Military Connection Center
  • Teacher Education Services, Darden College of Education

“Each year, I look forward to celebrating the partnership between Old Dominion University and Thomas Nelson Community College. It keeps us current on topics relevant to ODU transfer and opportunities to better advise students.”

—Crystal Anderson, director of advising for TNCC

Table Talk
Luncheon Tradition Strengthens Community College Partnerships

Our Local Community Colleges

TCC is the second-largest community college in Virginia with 22,776 students

Thomas Nelson ranks fourth with 8,286 students

Fall 2017 Total Students, data from VCCS
“Hosting our graduate and professional fairs at the Virginia Beach and Tri-Cities Higher Education Centers allowed us to reach out to an audience of adult learners who may not have the time or the inclination to drive to the main campus. We couldn’t be more pleased with our partnering experience and the prospective student turnout it generated.”

—Robert Wojtowicz, dean of the Graduate School
Bright Futures

STEM-H Open House Grows on the Peninsula

Nearly 300 high school students, parents, faculty and advisers came together at the ODU Peninsula Center this spring for a comprehensive look at just how much ODU offers in the dynamic—and growing—fields of STEM-H, a 49 percent increase over last year’s participation.

On March 15, the ODU Peninsula Center hosted its second Open House & Recruitment Fair, this time expanding from the Department of Modeling, Simulation & Visualization Engineering to include ODU’s colleges of Engineering and Technology, Sciences, Health Sciences, Arts and Letters, and Education, as well as the Virginia Space Grant Consortium.

The event targeted high school juniors and seniors who aspire to work in STEM-H fields. It attracted 263 students, parents, STEM-H instructors, professional school counselors, career coaches and advisers from six Peninsula school districts, private academies, local community colleges, technical schools and apprentice programs. A private academy from Suffolk also participated in the event, bringing parents, administrators and students ranging in age from 11 to 16. Throughout the open house, participants engaged in hands-on demonstrations and talked with ODU faculty and staff, graduate and PhD students, admissions and financial aid officers, and career and academic advisers, including representatives from the newly articulated Cybersecurity Program.

Participants toured 11 STEM-H exhibits and then had the opportunity to interact with vanguard technologies including the Microsoft HoloLens, VIVE, Z Space, Oculus Rift with Gesture Recognition, the VR Hood and various robotics demos. The Virginia Space Grant Consortium also hosted rotating sessions on drones, cybersecurity and opportunities for paid student internships in STEM-related interests.

SAY CHEESE Students and teachers record and share photos and videos using the Oculus Rift (seen at left) and other technology featured during the open house.

DETERMINED TO SUCCEED A student attempts to land a small drone on a classmate’s hands during a drone session hosted by Virginia Space Grant Consortium.
A common refrain we hear is that it’s so nice to put a face to the name (or email address). We feature the folks who made the Regional Higher Education Centers run efficiently this past year.

**ODU Peninsula**
Staff shown below, left to right:
- Eric Robinson, *Control Room Operator*
- Nina Gonzalez, *Enrollment and Administrative Specialist*
- Anna Makhorkina, *Assistant Director*
- Nakia Madry-Smith, *Director*
- Stacy Dabney, *Academic Advisor*
- Sandra Brown, *Program Support Technician*
- Keesha Lewis, *Administrative Assistant and Front Desk Coordinator*
- Corey Herbin, *Telecommunications Manager*

**ODU Tri-Cities**
Staff shown below, left to right:
- Erwin Farrow, *Systems Engineer*
- Ellen McClintock, *Enrollment Services Specialist*
- Roberto Westbrook, *Director*
- Evon Hughes, *Operations and Budget Coordinator*
- Davion Hussen, *Control Room Operator*
Did you know?

State-of-the-art conference rooms, computer labs and instructional classrooms are available to ODU personnel and public and private industries for conferences, retreats and continuing education purposes. Contact Marc Russell in Virginia Beach, Evon Hughes at Tri-Cities or Sandra Brown on the Peninsula.

A recently renovated conference room featuring a 90-inch television, Apple TV and Airplay for connecting wirelessly from nearly any device.
Engaging with Students and Community

**BLUE CRAB BOWL** On Feb. 2-3, ODU Virginia Beach hosted Virginia’s 21st annual Blue Crab Bowl, a cooperative effort between the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) of the College of William & Mary and Old Dominion University’s Department of Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Designed to inspire and challenge high school students, the contest tests the competitors’ knowledge of oceanography, geology, biology, maritime history and policy. The event attracted 70 students from nine schools across the state, and 65 volunteers from ODU and VIMS.

**SENIOR THESIS** High school students from the Visual and Performing Arts Academy (VPAA) in Virginia Beach gather for a photo on March 13. ODU Virginia Beach hosted the opening reception of the VPAA Senior Thesis Exhibition. The show was created, curated and installed by students enrolled in the highly selective program and represents the culmination of their visual arts study.

**POETRY READING** Mahogany Browne reads a poem during the 40th Annual ODU Literary Festival. The program was hosted at ODU Virginia Beach and streamed live to ODU Peninsula, ODU Tri-Cities and online.
ENGINEERS ON THE RISE
The third cohort of the Professional Development Program, a partnership between The Apprentice School of Newport News Shipbuilding and ODU, gathers for a reception at ODU Tri-Cities on May 8, 2018. The students earned engineering degrees from Old Dominion. The program has garnered national attention for its fusion of the hands-on nature of The Apprentice School and the academic rigor of the University’s engineering program.
IN THE NEWS

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES
During the State of the University address on Aug. 23, 2017, President John R. Broderick announced future expansion plans in Virginia Beach. “Later this fall, we will outline additional graduate health sciences programs and centers, including telehealth, resiliency and water technology efforts,” Broderick said. In March 2018, Provost Augustine Agho elaborated on those plans. The expansion of the School of Nursing at ODU Virginia Beach was complete by the time of the President’s 2018 State of the University address.

CYBER OUTLOOK
John Costanzo, associate director at ODU Virginia Beach, continued in his role as project manager for the Virginia Cyber Alliance and HRCyber Alliance. It was announced in January 2018 that ODU secured $642,713 in GO Virginia funding to continue efforts to grow and diversify the regional economy by identifying opportunities to create high-paying jobs in the cyber field. The project is coordinated by Old Dominion and is run through the University’s Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC).

HIGH PRAISE
Virginia Beach-based Master Lecturer Katherine Jackson was selected as the University Distinguished Teacher and honored during ODU’s annual Faculty Awards and Retirement Dinner on May 2. The award was created in 2013 to recognize outstanding teachers at the undergraduate level from among non-tenure track faculty members. Recommendations for the award are made to the provost by a faculty committee.
Regional Higher Education Centers
odu.edu/regionalcenters

**ODU Peninsula**
600 Butler Farm Road, Suite 2200
Hampton, VA 23666
757-766-5200

**ODU Tri-Cities**
1070 University Boulevard
Portsmouth, VA 23703
757-686-6220

**ODU Virginia Beach**
1881 University Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23453
757-368-4100