Do it yourself?

Can you recondition a diesel engine, make your own wedding cake, or craft your own eyeglasses? What if you had to make your own dentures?

Thank goodness, you don’t have to. Reynolds students are training to do that for you.

A Nursing or EMT student can practice saving your life in the new Simulation Lab at the Downtown Campus, outfitted through philanthropy. Your investment in the Educational Foundation goes to work in ways you care about.

Supporters of the Educational Foundation provide a powerful gift to the region: an increase in the number of skilled Reynolds graduates for RVA’s workforce.

In this Impact Report, you’ll meet some of the students preparing for a new economy, one in which we all benefit from their talents and abilities.

At Reynolds, philanthropy helps outstanding careers, lives, (and sometimes cars) get started.
Michael Robinson and Dr. Gary Rhodes prepare for our graduation ceremony.
Having Varina High School graduate and Super Bowl champion Michael Robinson as this year’s Commencement speaker was a real “win” for Reynolds. His advice for the Class of 2015 underscored this point: “To get better, talk to people at the top of their game.” Mr. Robinson had a stellar football career, but some of his best and most important work is still before him through his Excel to Excellence Foundation.

To draw a parallel, Reynolds has successfully educated hundreds of thousands of students and evolved into a proven community workforce provider; yet, some of our most innovative work lies ahead. By Reynolds’ 50th anniversary in 2022, it is our vision to become the preeminent workforce pathway for RVA’s people, workforce partners, and our entire community.

How do we get there? In plotting a strategic direction, I spent the year talking with stakeholders inside and outside the college. I asked CEOs what they expect from our graduates. What influences a high school student to choose Reynolds? What makes our donors feel confident and eager to support us?

This feedback and independent research informs our strategic plan, “Reynolds 2022: Pathways to Prosperity.” Our four key focus areas are: (1) providing more help and opportunities for post-secondary completion; (2) collegiate experiences that foster a sense of belonging and connection; (3) curricula aligned with workforce needs and an increase in the number of graduates with applicable credentials; and, (4) the development of Reynolds as a model for community leadership and civic engagement.

Your support illuminates those paths. With you beside us, our students will find their way to career success and go on to chart new territory. Becoming RVA’s preeminent pathway to the workforce and degree attainment will not be easy, nor should it be. But by focusing on the quality of what we do, how we do it, and what we deliver, Reynolds will rise to the occasion and fulfill its promise: helping our students, regional workforce, and community thrive.

Gary L. Rhodes, Ed.D.
President, Reynolds Community College

IMPACT:
Fostering a winning spirit:
The Educational Foundation will award a 2015-16 scholarship in honor of Michael Robinson.
Ryan is photographed at the Goochland YMCA which shares a campus with Reynolds.
Keeping His Head Above Water

Even at nine years old, Ryan Pledger had a head for business. Surrounded by Goochland’s generous acreage, he started Green Grass Landscaping Services in elementary school, creating its LLC status by 18. As a high school senior, Ryan had a choice. “I could stop doing landscaping and go to a four-year university, or I could stay here, save on tuition and living expenses, and get my business ready to sell.”

At a third of the price of the average public university in Virginia, Reynolds attracts savvy students (and their parents) eager to avoid an avalanche of college debt without sacrificing quality. For students, receiving a scholarship is a huge boost, not just financially, but academically and emotionally, too.

“My Valley Proteins Scholarship let me focus on my academics, instead of constantly worrying about earning money. Some students are working more than one job to be here. The way I looked at it, I’d budgeted costs for the rest of my education. My scholarship helped me stay on track for my first two years.”

Scholarships can provide something equally precious: a little free time to experience what makes college so special. “My first year, I just went to school, work, and home. After my scholarship, I joined JSR Lead, Phi Theta Kappa, and became a member of the Student Senate. I made a lot more friends and seized every opportunity I could.”

Graduating with honors in May, his landscaping business sold, Ryan will enter the University of Virginia’s McIntire School of Commerce this fall. “UVA is definitely going to cost. My Reynolds scholarship helped me focus on the long term. It also put things into perspective about using the funds and the time I have in the best way possible.”

IMPACT:

Through donations to the Educational Foundation, more than $557,000 in scholarship assistance was awarded to nearly 300 students in 2014-15.

Reynolds students who receive scholarships are nearly twice as likely to graduate as those who do not.
VCU is a popular transfer choice for Reynolds students.
Shauneal Bobb suggested meeting at VCU’s Student Commons for this interview. “I’ve been learning my way around. I’m still exploring, but I’ve been to Shafer Court and the library. It feels big compared to Reynolds, but I like it.”

Having earned her associate degree in Science, graduating with honors in May 2015, Shauneal joins scores of Reynolds graduates who continue their education at Virginia Commonwealth University, making Reynolds one of the largest feeders to VCU.

Shauneal’s smile has a lot to do with her decision to become a Biology major and a Ram. At Huguenot High School, she participated in the dual enrollment Dental Assistant program through Richmond Technical Center. “I started to like dentistry a lot. Since having my braces put on, I’ve been considering orthodontics, but I’m also drawn to the variety of general dentistry. It’s very competitive to get into the VCU School of Dentistry, but that’s my goal.”

A Reynolds scholarship recipient, Shauneal is continuing her studies through a transfer grant. Students in the Virginia Community College System can receive up to $2,000 annually for tuition upon transferring to a public or private four-year institution in Virginia, if they complete a transfer associate degree with a 3.0 GPA and meet financial eligibility requirements. Students receive $1,000 for the academic year, with an extra $1,000 for undergrads majoring in STEM, nursing, or teaching.

“Reynolds helped me in so many ways. Taking the Human Anatomy class with Dr. [Danette] Young opened me up to dentistry or even medical school. The tutoring center helped me, and then I actually became a tutor in statistics and technology. My advisor explained my GPA requirements and gave me all the information to come to VCU. I had my resume critiqued. And, our Phi Theta Kappa ceremony; that was the best day ever.”

With a great future ahead of her, Shauneal has plenty of reasons to smile, starting with her degree from Reynolds.
Sofia, photographed at the Virginia Aviation Museum, is a Reynolds Engineering student.
Critical Thinkers Wanted

Sofia Duarte is the first person in her family to go to college in the United States. The benefit of Reynolds extends beyond her own education. “If I didn’t come to Reynolds, my sister wouldn’t be able to go to college.”

Sofia’s workforce pathway has its beginning at Godwin High School. “I’ve always loved design, but I began to understand what I could do with it when I was on the robotics team. Engineering was the perfect fit.”

At Reynolds, the emphasis on career planning begins even before students enroll. Career Coaches embedded in local high schools, help students identify their career interests and get positioned for the right workforce credential. The Reynolds Advance College Academy is rigorous, giving students an avenue to complete an associate degree while still in high school.

The currency of time is as precious as money. Advising helps students make the best use of both. Reynolds is embracing a more direct approach to realistically assessing a student’s skills, devising a road map to follow, and stepping in if the student begins to drift.

Sofia is finishing up a graphic design internship with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and participated in the Virginia Space Grant Consortium’s 2015 Student Research Conference. “The engineers we met were complimentary of community college students, because we’re balancing school and work loads. They also stressed to us the importance of communicating effectively.”

That advice echoes the plea from business leaders in every segment of industry: Send us recruits who can think, reason, and question, while maintaining high standards for customer service. Reynolds is doing more to prepare students to show up on Day One with the technical proficiencies to generate ideas and solutions, and the communication skills to articulate them.

Sofia is on her way to becoming one of those graduates. “I really like how my professors are guiding me to think of the next step I’ll take after this. I’ve learned that you get out what you put in.”

Support for the Educational Foundation provides money for new equipment, curricula, and staff development.

IMPACT:
The gap is significant between available industry jobs and qualified applicants. Filling that gap requires instruction aligned with marketplace needs.
Jeremy, here at the Virginia Aviation Museum, hopes to work for NASA one day.
Taking Off with
Math Central

Meeting Jeremy Walko-Frankovic, an Engineering major making straight As in Calculus, it’s hard to imagine him barely passing Algebra in high school. “I just didn’t see the practicality of it then. Here, I see all you can do. Math is the true language of the world.”

The key to this growing fluency is Math Central, a program helping students move from developmental coursework into college-level math. In turn, students avail themselves to peer-to-peer tutoring, group sessions, and advising.

Fear of math is a troubling loss point in higher education. Low placement scores can discourage students from enrolling. Majors are switched and coursework is delayed. Yet, the sooner a student successfully completes a math class, the likelier they are to graduate. Math Central gives students the skills and confidence to stay in the running.

First enrolled in Automotive Technology, Jeremy had to improve his math skills before a switch to Engineering. “It was a little disappointing to learn I’d need another semester of developmental courses before I moved to the college level, but then they announced Math Central.” The individual attention and stop-by-anytime approach worked. “For the first time I felt like I could actually do it. And, they paid for Calculus.”

The payoff for students who complete their developmental coursework and meet the Math Central participation criteria is having their first college-level math course paid. “Saving that much was a big incentive. Plus, it’s rare to find true altruism in the world.”

Fortunately, the Educational Foundation has been able to tap into the altruism that makes Math Central possible. Grants from Altria and Universal Leaf Foundation have moved it from pilot to program. For Jeremy, Math Central gave him the runway to take off. “I have a paid internship with NASA Langley, working on magnetic docking systems for satellites. After Reynolds, I hope to continue at Virginia Tech. My dream is to go into aerospace engineering. Maybe I’ll be able to return to NASA.”

In the 2014-15 academic year, there were more than 2,300 student visits to Math Central.
Charles is using what he is learning at Reynolds to empower others.
Walking a New Path

Charles Fitzgerald knows what can keep a substance-addicted person on the streets. “First, you’re already feeling bad about yourself. Then, to ask for help and be treated like you’re nobody. How do you get housing? You can’t get employment without an address, and if you find a job, you can’t keep it because of your addiction.”

Charles entered treatment in 2006, where his counselors encouraged him to continue his education. While earning a Career Studies Certificate in Substance Abuse Counseling at Reynolds, he completed his internship required for graduation. “It gave me the chance to look deep into the shelter system. I believe housing must come first for a person with an addiction. Plenty of people in shelters could succeed with pre-housing and case management.”

Often, students are drawn to Human Services for personal reasons, says program head Dr. Pamela Ratliff. “Often, they’ve had, or have seen someone else have, a really good or really lousy experience in recovery. Others are career switchers and they’ve always been drawn to counseling.”

Students learn skills such as intake, screening, and how to co-facilitate groups. They apply what they learn, clocking 130 or more hours in local human services agencies. Mr. Fitzgerald’s internship helped him transition into employment after graduation and spurred him to start his own venture. “I focus on helping people get housed and stable so they can begin working. People want to work. They need routines.

Reynolds gave me the boldness to go forward. My first class was public speaking, which I ducked and dodged at first. But, that class gave me everything I needed. I can stand in front of someone and talk about my experiences. I even helped with a fundraising campaign. I hear people complain about the system, but what can you do to help change it? That’s why I’m back in school.”

Human Services students often sacrifice paid wages as they complete experiential learning hours required for an internship.

IMPACT:

A very special donation from the Cornelia Hodges Fund to provide stipend assistance will help ease the burden of missed income.
Standing from left: West End Community Center’s Susan Beller and Sherry Kerley
Seated: Shirley Barlow (student) and Jean Ray
Keeping the Tradition Alive

Endowing a scholarship at Reynolds is becoming a more attractive option for service organizations seeing their membership numbers or fundraising efforts evolve. In 2013, The Short Pump Ruritan/Civic Foundation fully endowed a scholarship at Reynolds; in keeping with the clubs’ missions, recipients must be residents of the Short Pump or Glen Allen community, or served by high schools in those areas.

In its heyday (“Back when Ridge Road was the Far West End,” quips Jean Ray) the West End Community Center (WECC) was one of Richmond’s most popular event sites. Created through the efforts of the Thomas Jefferson, Westwood, and Westhampton Junior Clubs and The Tri Club Women’s Club – the West End Community Center served as library, clubhouse, rental space, and the site of the Colony Cotillion.

But, times have changed. With more neighborhood clubhouses and rental options available, the West End Community Center’s doors have been shuttered – but, not its spirit. WECC President Jean Ray explains, “After selling the building, we had those proceeds, and wanted to do something to benefit the community. One of our member club’s strong interests has always been to help women. They have sponsored a scholarship at Reynolds for years, and the WECC wanted to continue that support.

The WECC created the West End Community Center Endowment to assist female students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), all career fields which are under-represented by women.

The West End Community Center is no more, but Jean Ray says members are still excited about their future of helping students. “We’re sad about closing, but it’s been wonderful hearing people’s enthusiasm when we’ve visited with a donation. It’s like Santa showed up in the middle of spring.”

IMPACT:

The Educational Foundation’s 50 endowed funds provide annual investment payouts that not only help students today, but create a continuing income stream to support future generations.
Kimberly Frith (right) at the Parham Road Campus with Dr. Barbara Glenn, dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences.
What Reynolds Has Meant to Me

by Kimberly Frith

Education was not a priority in my family, nor was it important to me. When I enrolled in 2009, I was the first in my family to attend college. I dove in head first. Guess what? I landed flat on my face! I had a series of unfortunate events during my first semester and dropped out, embarrassed, and ashamed.

I re-enrolled in 2012, knowing I would have to reinvent myself. With the support of my instructors, I regained my academic confidence and became a straight-A student.

The confidence has spilled over into my personal life. The diverse student body attending Reynolds has made me less ethnocentric. You can learn a lot about life and the world from the different people who are in it.

Another valuable lesson I learned is punctuality. Before Reynolds, I didn’t comprehend the value of being on time. I thought, “What’s five minutes?” I learned it’s the difference of interrupting others who are on time, which is very disrespectful. Holding myself accountable is now an important quality.

My instructors and the staff at Reynolds are inspirational. I’ll never forget speaking to Dean Barbara Glenn about an issue that had me particularly worried. She said to me with conviction, “At Reynolds, we open doors, we don’t close them.” Those words have held a heavy weight in my heart, because they’re true.

When I brought my high school transcripts that were littered with negativity, Reynolds opened its doors. When I came back after not completing my first semester, Reynolds opened its doors. Whenever I’ve had an issue with coursework, my professors have opened doors of knowledge for me to walk through. I’m inspired to dream. The door is always open and the possibilities are endless.
J. Sargeant Reynolds
Community College
Educational Foundation, Inc.

Statement of
Financial Position
June 30, 2015

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents $ 227,261
Investments $ 10,167,925
Unconditional Promises to Give $ 741,752
Other Receivables and Prepaid Expenses $ 16,089
Charitable Gift Instruments $ 567,724
Net Investment in Property $ 47,321

TOTAL ASSETS $ 11,768,072

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities $ 43,673
Net Assets:
  Unrestricted $ 633,481
  Temporarily Restricted $ 3,355,807
  Permanently Restricted $ 7,735,111

TOTAL NET ASSETS $ 11,724,399

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS $ 11,768,072

2014-2015
Raised by Donor Type

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<td>Corporations</td>
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*Includes realized bequests

2014-2015
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J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.

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Vice President
Gianna C. Clark

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Dorothy Reynolds Brotherton

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Richmond, Virginia

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Reynolds Community College

E. Massie Valentine, Jr.
Davenport & Company LLC

Benjamin J. Warner
Henrico Doctors' Hospital

We welcome Stephen E. Baril, Lawrence Doyle, Jean P. Holman, and Theresa K. Nöe to the Board.

We thank Mark A. Creery, Sr., Jerry P. Fox, J. Hunter Hoggatt, and Deborah J. Johnston for their service.

To learn more about the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Educational Foundation, please contact:

Executive Director
Bess Littlefield
804-523-5812
blittlefield@reynolds.edu

Director of Development
Marianne McGhee
804-523-5810
mmcghee@reynolds.edu
Massie Valentine (right), talks with Ryan Pledger, who will begin UVA this fall. See page 7 for more of Ryan’s story.
I’ll be honest. When I meet a Reynolds student bound for my alma mater of UVA, I’m thrilled for them. True, it’s because I have such fond memories of my own time there, but also because I know how well prepared our graduates are for the rigors ahead.

Every student has a different journey. Thank you for walking with our graduates as they take that important next step, whether it’s transferring to a four-year school or entering their career field of choice.

Whether our students go on to become Rams, Hokies, Panthers, or Earners, they have a wonderful community of supporters to thank for the instruction and training they received at Reynolds.

Thank you for another year of impactful giving. Your partnership is powerful, and we appreciate it!

E. Massie Valentine, Jr.
President, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Educational Foundation
Getting this scholarship pushed me to achieve higher grades because I wanted my donor to be proud of who was chosen to win their scholarship.

Shelby E.

The scholarship covered the gap in my Army funding, making it possible for me to go to school and support my family.

Jordan K.

The scholarship award provided a huge spiritual support. The understanding that there are people who believe in you and trust you is fulfilling and motivating.

Elena G.