

Government Relations Agenda Items
External Relations Committee
Tuesday, 17 September

1. McGuireWoods Consulting Report
2. Funding Requests for FY 2026
3. JLARC Report on VMSDEP
4. Institutional Performance Standards (IPS) Certification
5. 2025 General Assembly Session Dates
6. Fall Visits to Post and Office Calls
7. Local Government Relations



VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE – GROWTH4VA UPDATE

Election-Year Advocacy Program:

- Every four years, the board and advocacy team for the Virginia Business Higher Education Council (VBHEC) collaborate to refresh the key policies and messages we will promote during the upcoming election-year campaign.
- Governors tend to focus on what they campaigned on, and VBHEC has successfully provided key messages and poll data to candidates in the last 4 campaigns for governor.
- Given the retirement of legislative supporters, VBHEC will prioritize briefing and building relationships with legislators who are in new leadership and key committee roles.
- Given likely nomination battles, the timetable for updating our polling and briefing the candidates for governor, LG, AG, and the legislature is being accelerated.
- There will be a public advocacy phase during the 2025 spring primary season rather than deferring the entire public advocacy program to the fall general election campaign.

Recurring Campaign Elements:

Public-Facing Advocacy Phase –

- Campaign launch event(s): roll out new polling data and new video
- Statewide conference (fall 2025)
- Coalition development and grassroots contacts
- Earned media and targeted social media

Governmental Outreach –

- Engagement with key legislative & executive branch players / private sector partners
- Policy development/coordination related to other legislative and budget initiatives
- Briefings for candidates and executive-legislative branch officials
- Work with statewide and legislative campaign staffs and caucuses
- Direct lobbying and coordination of business outreach
- Ongoing government relations coordination with the Council of Presidents and liaisons.

Quarterly Tasks & Timeline

- 2024, Q3: Legislative outreach
- 2024, Q4: Executive budget process; policy development and polling
- Nov 12-26 - Work with polling team to develop survey questionnaire
 - Dec 4-15 - Pollsters conduct survey and report results
 - Dec 20 - Draft slide deck for GOV candidates completed and shared
- 2025, Q1: Session lobbying; gubernatorial candidate briefings (Jan 4-15)
- 2025, Q2: LG/AG/HOD candidate briefings; spring public advocacy program
- 2025, Q3/4: Fall public advocacy program; exec budget process; transition
- 2026, Q1: Public advocacy program (activation); session lobbying

VBHEC Priority Briefings – Key Legislators and Staff

Ongoing Outreach to Gubernatorial Candidates:

- Developing and implementing individualized strategies for briefing, assisting, and generating positive policy positions and public comment by the candidates for governor
- Briefing them on VBHEC and key issues this summer
- Will return in January to brief on new policies/messages and poll data
 - Abigail Spanberger (*completed, but will go back with poll results*)
 - AG Miyares (*not yet declared*)
 - LG Earle-Sears (*not yet declared*)

Ongoing Outreach to Key Legislators:

- Developing individualized relationship-building plans for key legislators/staff
- Working with committee staff to assist and impact higher ed presentations at the money committee fall retreats
- Related strategies: videotaping more key members commenting positively on VBHEC's agenda; including pitches by key legislators in V-TOP marketing plan
 - **Senate** - Leadership (majority/minority)
Finance & Appropriations (SFAC): Subcommittee on Education
Education & Health: Subcommittee on Higher Education
Additional key senators
Key SFAC staff
 - **House** - Leadership (majority/minority)
Appropriations (HAC): Subcommittee on Higher Education
Education: Higher Education Subcommittee
Additional key delegates
Key HAC staff

MEMORANDUM

TO: External Relations Committee
FROM: COL Kimberly C. Parker
SUBJECT: Funding Requests for FY 2026
DATE: 28 August 2024

Attached are the Institute's funding requests for fiscal year 2026. These operational requests were introduced during the six-year plan process and will be formally submitted to the Department of Planning and Budget on 20 September. Our capital requests were submitted on 26 August.

MG Wins will have meetings with Administration officials to explain our requests and answer any questions from our submissions with a view toward having some of our requests included in the Governor's budget amendments. The Governor will present his amendments to the biennial budget to a joint meeting of the General Assembly money committees on 18 December.

Items not included in the Governor's budget amendments can be submitted by a member of the legislature as amendments to the budget during the legislative session. The VMI Government Relations Team will work with select members to submit those budget amendments.

**Virginia Military Institute
2025 General Assembly Session
Funding Requests**

**Operational Requests
FY 2026**

Academic Enhancements \$252,000

VMI requests state support to provide enhancements to the academic program. The enhancements include: (1) Continued delivery, assessment, and improvement of a Core Curriculum course that provides all cadets with a solid understanding of US History, the Constitution, and Civics. (2) Add a full-time support staff position in the Office of Global Education to expand the opportunities for global education provided to cadets. (3) Continue the Summer Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Program, a five-week, privately funded program that will provide coursework and experiential learning to help the participants develop an entrepreneurial mindset to support their future plans.

Emergency Financial Aid \$165,000

VMI requests emergency financial aid to support upper-class Virginia cadets qualifying for less federal, need-based aid than in past years, despite there being no significant changes to their family's financial profile. The reductions in aid are due to the changes in the federal methodology around awarding aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). These cadets expect and rely on similar aid packages each year to finance the completion of their education. In order to ensure these cadets persist to graduation, financial aid resources are required to close the financial gap experienced due to the FAFSA changes.

Operational Enhancements \$785,000

VMI requests State support to provide for positions to enhance operations and planning across Post and support the utilization of a unique and key facility. The positions include: 1) A senior-level position, reporting directly to the Superintendent, is requested to formulate the Institute's Forging 21st Century Leaders strategic plan, approved by the Board of Visitors in November 2023. 2) A new position to enhance operations, planning, and coordination across departments, facilities, and human capital on Post to better serve the goals of the Institute and public. 3) Seven positions to provide support in VMI's 58,000 square foot Aquatic Center, now fully operational and supporting unique ROTC training opportunities. An assistant director, three trades technicians, and three custodians are needed to optimize the functions of this facility.

Capital Requests FY 2026

Construct Center for Leadership and Ethics Facility Phase II – Construction Funding

\$80.8 Million

This project will bring together portions of the Cadet Leadership Development Program and the VMI Museum in a new facility, allowing them to share resources, collaborate on programming, and grow the VMI leadership development experience for leaders at all levels with focus on the Corps of Cadets. A 425-car, multi-level parking structure will be constructed as part of and adjacent to the Center for Leadership and Ethics Phase II facility.

Cocke Hall Annex Renovation – Detailed Planning

\$1.1 Million

Cocke Hall Annex was completed in 1970 as a complement to Cocke Hall. The building houses a 25-yard competition swimming pool with a raised instruction/spectator area. The pool exceeds life expectancy and is losing water at a rate of approximately 1,500 gallons per day. A liner was installed to extend the useful life and the entire pool well is in critical need of renovation. The exterior of the building requires patching and repairs of the existing stucco and replacement of scuppers and downspouts. The existing mechanical, electrical, and plumbing distribution systems throughout the facility are showing superficial signs of water and chemical degradation.

Renovate Carroll, Shell, & Richardson Halls – Pre-Planning

\$250,000

This project involves the renovation of three adjacent facilities: Carroll Hall, Shell Hall and Richardson Hall. These buildings are to be renovated as one project since they share utility systems that have reached the end of their useful life. The renovation includes converting selected space to laboratories for the Psychology Department. Each facility houses critical support functions for cadets to include the Registrar, Career Services, Military Store and Tailor Shop.

MEMORANDUM

TO: External Relations Committee

FROM: COL Kimberly C. Parker

SUBJECT: JLARC Report on VMSDEP

DATE: 28 August 2024

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) was tasked with reporting to the General Assembly money committees on the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program (VMSDEP) and its sustainability.

Attached you will find the letter from the chairs of Senate Finance and Appropriations and House Appropriations to the chair of the Commission, Delegate Mark Sickles. As you will see, the report is due on 1 September. At this writing, we await the results.

VMI staff had several calls/meetings with the JLARC staff as they studied the issue. One expectation from this report is that it will confirm the growth numbers from each of the institutions. That information will be helpful to policymakers as they grapple with the long-term viability of the program. Our hope is that the state can identify a sustainable funding stream to support it.



Commonwealth of Virginia

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 28, 2024

The Honorable Mark D. Sickles, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission
919 East Main Street
Suite 2101
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Delegate Sickles:

We are writing to request that the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission (JLARC) undertake a thorough and comprehensive review of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program established in Title 23.1, Chapter 6, Code of Virginia, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program and evaluate all aspects of eligibility criteria, program parameters, and impact on Virginia's higher education institutions and tuition paying students. In particular, we request JLARC staff to: (i) evaluate the history, current structure and utilization trends of the program; (ii) analyze participant data; (iii) validate the waiver costs reported by public higher education institutions; (iv) identify and compare veterans' educational benefits provided in other states and determine best practices; and (v) review methods to project future year enrollment and costs based on current program parameters and the impact of any recommended changes.

The JLARC report shall include recommendations on legislative action and budgetary modifications that could be made to improve the stability and strength of the program and ensure its long-term viability.

It is our firm expectation that the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) will fully cooperate with JLARC's review.

We request that JLARC submit its findings to the Governor and the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees by September 1, 2024.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Luke E. Torian in black ink.

Luke E. Torian
Chair, House Appropriations Committee

Handwritten signature of L. Louise Lucas in black ink.

L. Louise Lucas
Chair, Senate Finance & Appropriations
Committee

cc: The Honorable Don Scott, Speaker
The Honorable Mamie E. Locke, Vice Chair, JLARC
Mr. Hal E. Greer, Director, JLARC

MEMORANDUM

TO: External Relations Committee

FROM: COL Kimberly C. Parker

SUBJECT: Institutional Performance Standards (IPS)

DATE: 29 August 2024

In July 2014, the State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) renewed its process for evaluating institutions on prescribed, education-related performance measures consistent with the Top Jobs legislation passed in 2011. The evaluation process is biennial and includes assessment of institutional performance over two years. This year, the process covers 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

There are six standard, education-related performance measures. VMI received an exemption on the sixth measure related to transfer students and substituted a commissioning measure in its place. As the attached pages from the July SCHEV meeting indicate, the Institute passed four of the six education-related measures. VMI missed its projection in 22-23 on in-state headcount given the small classes cycling through the Institute and we missed our 22-23 projection on the number of STEM-H degrees awarded.

Concurrent with SCHEV's evaluation of the education-related measures, the Secretaries of Finance and Administration review each institution's performance on the financial and administrative standards contained in the Appropriations Act. Although the results of the financial and administrative evaluation have not yet been received, VMI does not anticipate any issues with our compliance on these measures.

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Agenda Item

Item: #II.D – Resources and Planning Committee – Discussion of Institutional Performance Standards

Date of Meeting: July 23, 2024

Presenter: Lee Andes
Interim Director of Finance Policy and Innovation
LeeAndes@Schev.edu

Most Recent Review/Action:

No previous Council review/action

Previous review/action

Date: May 15, 2023

Action: Council took action on the 2022 performance standards to certify seven institutions that were previously under review.

Purpose of the Agenda Item: The purpose of this item is to inform members' discussions of the findings from the six general education-related performance measures that are part of the 2024 assessment of institutional performance. At the September 2024 meeting, staff will present results of the Financial and Administrative Standards as prepared by the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB).

Background Information/Summary of Major Elements:

SCHEV has assessed institutional performance for nearly two decades, beginning with the *Higher Education Restructuring Act* in 2005, the *Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act* of 2011 (*Top Jobs Act* or *TJ21*) and related *Code of Virginia* amendments. The *Appropriation Act* of 2024-26, Chapter 2, under General Provisions, outlines the assessment process and lists the six education-related measures and six financial and administrative standards by which the Council shall base its assessment and certification.

The assessment process involves two areas of measurement: six education-related measures and six financial and administrative standards. The first four education-related measures are intended to measure each public institution's enrollment projections to ensure accuracy for planning purposes. Two measures ensure institutions are maintaining or increasing enrollments in specific areas of focus. These six measures are:

1. **HEADCOUNT** - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for in-state undergraduate headcount enrollment.

2. **DEGREE AWARDS** - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state associate and bachelor degree awards.
3. **STEM-H DEGREE AWARDS** - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state STEM-H (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Health professions) associate and bachelor degree awards.
4. **PROGRESSION AND RETENTION** - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state, upper level - sophomore level for two-year institutions and junior and senior level for four-year institutions - program-placed, full-time equivalent students.
5. **DEGREES FOR UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS** - Maintain or increase the number of in-state associate and bachelor degrees awarded to students from underrepresented populations.
6. **TWO-YEAR TRANSFERS** - Maintain or increase the number of in-state two-year transfers to four-year institutions. *Special Note: Virginia Military Institute (VMI) has an alternative measure, commissioning rate, for this performance measure.*

The preliminary results for the six measures are included in this agenda item. DPB staff will review the results for the Financial and Administrative Standards, and SCHEV staff will provide those results at Council's September meeting.

The full text from the *Appropriation Act* is available [online](#). Specifically, the following text relates to SCHEV's responsibilities:

In general, institutions are expected to achieve all performance measures in order to be certified by SCHEV, but it is understood that there can be circumstances beyond an institution's control that may prevent achieving one or more performance measures. The Council shall consider, in consultation with each institution, such factors in its review: (1) institutions meeting all performance measures will be certified by the Council and recommended to receive the financial benefits, (2) institutions that do not meet all performance measures will be evaluated by the Council and the Council may take one or more of the following actions: (a) request the institution provide a remediation plan and recommend that the Governor withhold release of financial benefits until Council review of the remediation plan or (b) recommend that the Governor withhold all or part of financial benefits.

Further, the State Council shall have broad authority to certify institutions as having met the standards on education-related measures. The State Council shall likewise have the authority to exempt institutions from certification on education-related measures that the State Council deems unrelated to an institution's mission or unnecessary given the institution's level of performance.

The State Council may develop, adopt and publish standards for granting exemptions and ongoing modifications to the certification process.

The Council uses results for the measures and standards to verify institutional performance. Institutions that meet the criteria are eligible to receive financial benefits from the state. The language in § [23.1-1002.C](#) provides details about these financial benefits.

C. Each public institution of higher education that (i) has been certified during the fiscal year by the Council pursuant to § 23.1-206 as having met the institutional performance benchmarks for public institutions of higher education and (ii) meets the state goals set in subsection A shall receive the following financial benefits:

1. Interest on the tuition and fees and other nongeneral fund Educational and General Revenues deposited into the state treasury by the institution, as provided in the general appropriation act. Such interest shall be paid from the general fund and shall be an appropriate and equitable amount as determined and certified in writing by the Secretary of Finance to the Comptroller by the end of each fiscal year or as soon as practicable after the end of such fiscal year;

2. Any unexpended appropriations of the public institution of higher education at the end of the fiscal year, which shall be reappropriated and allotted for expenditure by the institution in the immediately following fiscal year;

3. A pro rata amount of the rebate due to the Commonwealth on credit card purchases of \$5,000 or less made during the fiscal year. The amount to be paid to each institution shall equal a pro rata share based upon its total transactions of \$5,000 or less using the credit card that is approved for use by all state agencies as compared to all transactions of \$5,000 or less using such card by all state agencies. The Comptroller shall determine the public institution's pro rata share and, as provided in the general appropriation act, shall pay the institution by August 15 of the fiscal year immediately following the year of certification or as soon as practicable after August 15 of such fiscal year. The payment to an institution of its pro rata share under this subdivision shall also be applicable to other rebate or refund programs in effect that are similar to that of the credit card rebate program described in this subdivision. The Secretary of Finance shall identify such other rebate or refund programs and shall determine the pro rata share to be paid to the institution; and

4. A rebate of any transaction fees for the prior fiscal year paid for sole source procurements made by the institution in accordance with subsection E of § 2.2-4303 for using a vendor that is not registered with the Department of General Services' web-based electronic procurement program commonly known as "eVA," as provided in the general appropriation act. Such rebate shall be certified by the Department of General Services and paid to each public institution by August 15 of the fiscal year immediately following the year of certification or as soon as practicable after August 15 of such fiscal year.

The [2024-26 budget](#) provides \$10 million in General Fund and \$12 million in nongeneral fund for certified institutions. Historically, Council has required remediation plans for institutions that fail three or more measures and provided feedback to institutions that

fail one or two measures. For context and benefit of the Council's understanding, the amounts available to certified institutions under this provision represent less than one percent of all funds appropriated for support of higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The years under review for the 2024 Biennial Assessment are 2021-22 and 2022-23. Institutions found in compliance in these years are eligible to receive the benefits during 2024-25 and 2025-26. Preliminary results for the six measures indicate that, systemwide, five of the six measures were achieved. Table I contains the aggregate information.

TABLE I
RESULTS FOR SIX GENERAL INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES
 Aggregate Information
 July 2024

PERFORMANCE MEASURE	2021-2022			2022-2023		
	Target	Actual	Result	Target	Actual	Result
1 - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for in-state undergraduate headcount enrollment.	289,308	277,331	96%	288,999	278,617	96%
2 - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state associate and bachelor degree awards.	49,642	49,591	100%	49,731	48,235	97%
3 - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state STEM-H associate and bachelor degree awards.	12,330	13,294	108%	12,431	13,108	105%
4 - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state, upper level – sophomore level for two-year institutions and junior and senior level for four-year institutions – program-placed, full-time equivalent students.	67,491	77,522	115%	59,583	75,913	127%
5 - Maintain or increase the number of in-state associate and bachelor degrees awarded to students from underrepresented populations.	For this measure, we compare the average for the two years under review to the average for the three prior years.			31,150	30,587	-564
6 - Maintain or increase the number of in-state, two-year transfers to four-year institutions.	For this measure, we compare the average for the two years under review to the baseline figure from 2010-11.			9,579	9,920	341

Table 2 contains the preliminary results by institution:

TABLE 2
BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS BY INSTITUTION AND MEASURE
 (Using 2021 Projections)
 July 2024

Institution	PM 1		PM 2		PM 3		PM 4		PM 5	PM 6
	21-22	22-23	21-22	22-23	21-22	22-23	21-22	22-23	Biennium	Biennium
CNU	P	P	P	P	87	P	P	P	-7	-55
CWM	P	P	93	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
GMU	P	94	P	91	P	84	P	P	P	P
JMU	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-56	P
LU	94	88	P	P	P	P	P	91	-19	-46
NSU	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-213
ODU	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-190	-251
RU	P	94	P	P	P	P	P	P	-136	-70
UMW	P	94	P	85	P	P	P	P	-27	P
UVA	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
UVA-W	P	88	92	92	77	88	P	89	-37	-71
VCU	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	-64	-181
VMI	P	91	P	P	P	88	P	P	P	P
VSU	P	P	81	84	P	P	P	P	-38	-7
VT	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
VCCS	93	P	P	93	P	P	N/A	N/A	-477	N/A
RBC	88	90	78	P	P	P	N/A	N/A	-50	N/A

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

PM 1 - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for in-state undergraduate headcount enrollment.

PM 2 - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state associate and bachelor degree awards.

PM 3 - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state STEM-H associate and bachelor degree awards.

PM 4 - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state, upper level - sophomore level for two-year institutions and junior and senior level for four-year institutions - program-placed, full-time equivalent students.

PM 5 - Maintain or increase the number of in-state associate and bachelor degrees awarded to students from underrepresented populations.

PM 6 - Maintain or increase the number of in-state two-year transfers to four-year institutions. Please note VMI has a different measure - the commissioning rate

*VMI was granted an exemption from IPS Measure #6 regarding transfers from two-year colleges, and instead is evaluated on its commissioning percentage.

Results indicate that two institutions achieved all six measures. These institutions are University of Virginia and Virginia Tech.

Staff has worked with the other institutions to discuss the results and obtain feedback about any deficiencies. In particular, concerns exist regarding the institutions that show deficiencies for three or more measures. These institutions include Christopher Newport University, George Mason University, Longwood University, Radford University, University of Mary Washington, Richard Bland College, University of Virginia at Wise, Virginia Community College System, Virginia Military Institute and Virginia State University.

Reasons provided for deficiencies include: the impact of the pandemic; inaccurate enrollment and degree projections; and, with regard to transfers, a smaller pool of transfers from the Virginia Community College System.

Table 3 contains staff's recommendations regarding action for each institution. In past years, the Council has chosen to require remediation plans for institutions with deficiencies for three or more measures.

TABLE 3
BIENNIAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS BY INSTITUTION
Performance Measures 1 - 6
July 2024

Institution	PM 1	PM2	PM 3	PM4	PM5	PM 6	Recommendation
CNU	P	P	F1	P	F	F	Remediation Plan
W&M	P	F1	P	P	P	P	Feedback Only
GMU	F2	F2	F2	P	P	P	Remediation Plan
JMU	P	P	P	P	F	P	Feedback Only
LU	F1&F2	P	P	F2	F	F	Remediation Plan
NSU	P	P	P	P	P	F	Feedback Only
ODU	P	P	P	P	F	F	Feedback Only
RU	F2	P	P	P	F	F	Remediation Plan
UMW	F2	F2	P	P	F	P	Remediation Plan
UVA	P	P	P	P	P	P	Passed
UVA-W	F2	F1&F2	F1&F2	F2	F	F	Remediation Plan
VCU	P	P	P	P	F	F	Feedback Only
VMI	F2	P	F2	P	P	P*	Feedback Only
VSU	P	F1&F2	P	P	F	F	Remediation Plan
VT	P	P	P	P	P	P	Passed
VCCS	F1	F2	P	N/A	F	N/A	Remediation Plan
RBC	F1&F2	F1	P	N/A	F	N/A	Remediation Plan

P = Pass F = Fail (F1 = Fail first year, 2021-22, and F2 = Fail second year, 2022-23)

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

PM 1 - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for in-state undergraduate headcount enrollment.

PM 2 - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state associate and bachelor degree awards.

PM 3 - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state STEM-H associate and bachelor degree awards.

PM 4 - Institution meets at least 95 percent of its State Council-approved biennial projections for the number of in-state, upper level - sophomore level for two-year institutions and junior and senior level for four-year institutions - program-placed, full-time equivalent students.

PM 5 - Maintain or increase the number of in-state associate and bachelor degrees awarded to students from underrepresented populations.

PM 6 - Maintain or increase the number of in-state two-year transfers to four-year institutions.

*VMI was granted an exemption from IPS Measure #6 regarding transfers from two-year colleges, and instead is evaluated on its commissioning percentage.

If Council agrees with staff's recommendations regarding remediation plans, then staff will begin working with those institutions regarding their plans.

The second set of measures that are part of the assessment process are the Financial and Administrative Standards. The review for these standards is underway by the Department of Planning and Budget. Staff anticipates receiving this information and recommendations from the Office of the Secretary of Finance in mid-August. At the September Council Meeting, staff will present this information, as well as recommendations regarding the certification of the institutions.

Materials Provided: The information for this item is summarized above.

Financial Impact: This item carries no financial impacts for the agency. Within the IPS process, certified institutions are eligible to receive financial benefits listed in § [23.1-1002.C](#).

Timetable for Further Review/Action: At Council's September Meeting, staff will present the final results for the administrative standards and provide recommendations regarding certification for institutions.

Relationship to the Goals of *The Virginia Plan for Higher Education*:

The IPS standards relate to all three of the plan's goals and align to measurements of awards, enrollments and underrepresented populations in the plan.

Resolution: None.

2025 General Assembly Session
Significant Dates
(Preliminary)

08 January	Session Convenes	Capitol
10 January	Budget Amendments Due	Money Committees
27-28 January	MG Wins' Legislative Visits	General Assembly Building
4 February	Crossover	
5 February	Cadet Legislative Visit Legislative Reception	General Assembly Building Library of Virginia
9 February	Committees Report Budgets	General Assembly Building
17-18 February	MG Wins' Legislative Visits	General Assembly Building
22 February	Session Adjourns	Capitol
2 April	Reconvened Session	Capitol

Fall Legislative/Executive Visits 2024

Richmond Meetings

25 September – Secretary Stephen Cummings/Deputy Secretary John Markowitz
Ms. Aimee Gindi/Ms. Ainsley Walker
Mr. Richard Cullen

TBD Secretary Guidera

TBD Senator Louise Lucas

Post Visits

13 September Mr. Scott Fleming, SCHEV Director

TBD Attorney General Jason Miyares

TBD Lt. Governor Winsome-Sears

TBD Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger

TBD Senator Chris Head

District Visits

1 November Senator Jennifer Carroll Foy

TBD Delegate Terry Austin

Virtual Visits

TBD Congressman Bobby Scott

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA 24450-0304

Finance & Support Office
Phone 540-464-7697
Fax 540-464-7169

1 September 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Visitors – External Relations Committee

FROM: Brigadier General (BG) Dallas Clark

SUBJECT: Local Government Relations Update

VMI continues a robust relationship throughout the Lexington/Rockbridge County community and the New Market community to include involvement in organizational boards and committees, supporting events, and maintaining effective communications on programs that impact the local jurisdictions. Below is a summary of VMI's local government relations activity from April through August 2024:

18 April 2024 – BG Clark and Colonel (COL) Jeffrey Boobar attended the Lexington City Council Meeting. This meeting was the last city council meeting for City Manager Jim Halasz who was retiring at the end of April 2024. During the meeting, BG Clark thanked Mr. Halasz for his service and many years of great cooperation with VMI. BG Clark also presented Mr. Halasz with a retirement gift on behalf of VMI and the Corps of Cadets.

25 April 2024 – COL Boobar attended a meeting hosted by the Rockbridge County Commonwealth Attorney's Office concerning the initiation of a county wide Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). The VMI Inspector General's Office, Human Resources Office, Post Police, Post Hospital and Commandant's Office also participated in the meeting. The SART will be a multi-agency team run by the Rockbridge County Commonwealth Attorney's Office and the Buena Vista Commonwealth Attorney's Office. The team will include participation from law enforcement agencies, counseling offices, forensic nursing teams, university Title IX offices, university student affairs offices, and local prosecutors. The mission of the SART will be to assist and provide support to victims of sexual assault in Rockbridge County.

2 May 2024 – COL Boobar attended the Lexington City Council Meeting. Dr. Bing Jiang (VMI Associate Professor for Economics/Business), CDT Cole Cathcart (24), and CDT Jai Vijayan (26) also attended the meeting. During the meeting, CDT Cathcart briefed the council on the Lexington Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) project which has been conducted by VMI cadets over the past several years. The PAFR provides the city council with a summary of financial transactions for the previous fiscal year. CDT Cathcart's report covered Lexington's financial transaction for FY 2023 which included a summary of all revenues and expenditures for the year. The three largest expenditures for the year were public education, public safety, and capital projects. **See below photograph.**





8 May 2024 – BG Clark and COL Boobar attended the annual Shenandoah County Town & County Dinner event in New Market. The event was hosted by VMI in the Virginia Museum of the Civil War at the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park. Approximately, 75 local government leaders and officials attended representing Shenandoah County and the towns of New Market, Strasburg, Mt. Jackson, Toms Brook, Edinburg, and Woodstock. During the event, COL Keith Gibson gave a presentation about the history of the New Market Battlefield Park and Museum. He also announced the upcoming \$24.3Million capital project for the Battlefield Park and Museum which was recently approved by the Virginia Legislature and Governor Glenn Youngkin.

28 May 2024 – COL Boobar attended the Rockbridge/Lexington Chamber of Commerce “Government Affairs Roundtable” event. State Senator Christopher Head was the guest at the roundtable. Approximately 35 members from the local community attended the event. SEN Head provided the group with a summary of the recently ended Virginia legislative session and the special legislative session which was called to pass a Virginia budget. Other topics covered during the roundtable included: I-81 & I-64 interstate improvement fundings; the current challenges for local small business to provide health insurance for their employees; the expansion and misuse of the food stamp program; improvements needed in local public schools; and the challenges local jurisdictions have with funding major sewer and water projects.

7 June 2024 – COL Boobar and COL Kimberly Parker attended the Rockbridge/Lexington Chamber of Commerce “Education Outlook” event at Southern Virginia University. Virginia Assistant Secretary of Education Zach Jacobs was the guest speaker. Approximately 30

members from the local community attended the event. Secretary Jacobs provided the group with an overview of the Department of Education and a summary of ongoing departmental initiatives in the areas of K-12 standards, higher education graduate employment outcomes, and community college regional workforce development. Other topics covered during the question & answer period included: the challenges of AI in schools; funding for local school construction and renovations; free speech in schools; and the challenges of truancy in K-12 schools across the Commonwealth.

27 June 2024 – BG Clark and COL Boobar attended the Shenandoah Valley Partnership networking event hosted by the Virginia Museum of the Civil War at the New Market Battlefield State Park. Approximately 60 local government officials, education officials, and business leaders from throughout the Shenandoah Valley attended the event. During his opening remarks, BG Clark thanked the group for coming to New Market for their event and provided a summary of the upcoming capital improvement project which will take place at the museum over the next several years. **See below photograph.**



18 July 2024 – The VMI Museum hosted the Rockbridge/Lexington Chamber of Commerce “After Hours” event in the lower level of the VMI Museum. Parkhurst Dining provided the catering for the event. The event was attended by approximately 40 members of the chamber and other city officials to include the new Lexington City Manager, Mr. Tom Carroll, and Lexington Mayor Frank Friedman.

30 July 2024 – VMI hosted Lexington City Manager, Mr. Tom Carroll, for a Post-wide visit. Mr. Carroll became the new city manager in May 2024. The visit included a meeting with BG Clark and a “meet & greet” with the Superintendent. In addition, Mr. Carroll was provided a tour of Barracks, Memorial Hall, the VMI Museum, the Infirmary, the Cadet Counseling Center, the Corps Physical Training Facility, the Aquatic Center, Crozet Hall, Hinty Hall, the VMI Police Department, and Marshall Hall.

31 July 2024 – The VMI Police Department and the VMI Athletics Department hosted the first annual “Guns & Hoses” charity softball game at Gray-Minor Stadium. The event collected food and raised money for the Rockbridge Area Relief Association. Officers from the VMI Police Department participated as members of the law enforcement team along with other officers from across Rockbridge County. The event raised approximately \$1,000.00 and collected 300 cans of food. The law enforcement team won both games. **See below photograph.**



17 August 2024 – MG Wins hosted Lexington City Manager Tom Carroll at the Matriculation March Up Ceremony in Cameron Hall. Earlier in the day, 498 new cadets matriculated into VMI. New cadet training began immediately after the march up into Barracks. It was the first time Mr. Carroll had participated in the Matriculation Day event at VMI.

VMI’s participation in local organizations is also ongoing. These organizations include membership in the Rockbridge County/Lexington Chamber of Commerce; membership in Main Street Lexington, a small business group; board membership on Project Horizon, a local domestic and sexual violence prevention organization; and chair of the Chessie Nature Trail Advisory Group. COL Boobar, in his role as local government liaison officer, continues to monitor and participate in both Lexington City Council and Rockbridge County Board of

Supervisors meetings and activities as appropriate. Through its certified EMT program, the Corps of Cadets will continue to provide EMS support to local emergency services including the Lexington Fire Department and other Rockbridge County agencies during the 2024/2025 academic year. **See the below social media post from the Lexington Fire Department congratulating cadet EMTs from the Class of 2024 upon their graduation last May.**



Lexington Fire Department, VA

50m · 🌐



Congrats to LFD members who graduated from VMI today. Jackson Kamb, John Taxiarchov, and Jordan Coleman pictured with A-Shift and Volunteers. Thanks for your hard work and dedication to providing Fire & EMS services to our citizens. Best wishes in the next chapter of your life.

