

November 17-18, 2022

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**SUPPORT FOR RICHARD BLAND COLLEGE TRANSITIONING
TO AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, Richard Bland College was established in 1960 as one of five separate institutions, each overseen by an entity then known as the Board of Visitors of the Colleges of William and Mary;

WHEREAS, the General Assembly subsequently granted three of those institutions independent governing boards, and those institutions exist today as Old Dominion University, Virginia Commonwealth University and Christopher Newport University;

WHEREAS, as Virginia’s only junior college, Richard Bland College has responded to General Assembly directives in place since 2014 to model collaborative, innovative approaches to education that would yield improved attainment of higher education—and attendant credentials—for Virginia citizens and robust economic development for the Commonwealth;

WHEREAS, the 2022 General Assembly directed Richard Bland College to present a report by November 1, 2022 on “steps necessary to transition to an innovative model for higher education that prepares citizens for jobs in high-demand fields and in industries critical to the economic development of the Petersburg area, Virginia Gateway Region and Commonwealth of Virginia”;

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2022 a report entitled *Richard Bland College: A Model for Higher Education Innovation* was submitted to House and Senate Education and Finance Committees of the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, the report defines Richard Bland College as an innovative, hybrid model for higher education in Virginia and recommends the College have a dedicated, independent Board of Visitors; and

WHEREAS, the President of Richard Bland College has advised the Board of Visitors she plans to pursue legislation during the 2023 General Assembly session that would grant Richard Bland College a dedicated governing board without elevating its degree status;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Visitors of the College of William & Mary in Virginia expresses its support for Richard Bland College being transitioned to an independent governance structure.