



Richard Bland College  
*of WILLIAM & MARY*

**RBC Committee  
W&M Board of Visitors**

Richard Bland College  
Academic Innovation Center  
November 21, 2024



## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS



# MR. JOHN RATHBONE

W&M Board of Visitors  
RBC Committee Chair



Richard Bland College  
of WILLIAM & MARY

# PRESIDENT'S REMARKS



**DR. DEBBIE SYDOW**  
President



Richard Bland College  
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# ACADEMICS UPDATE



**DR. TIFFANY BIRDSONG**  
Chief Academic Officer



Richard Bland College  
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# Richard Bland College

*A Premier University-Parallel Experience  
for 1st and 2nd Year Students*



Richard Bland College  
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**2-Year  
College**



**University**



***University-Parallel  
experience and  
just-in-time  
support for the  
two-year student***

# Academic Pathways

## **Associate of Science (AS)**

AS Business Administration

AS Behavioral Science

## **Associate of Arts (AA)**

AS Math and Computer Science

AS Life Science

AS Physical Science

AS Clinical Lab Science





# Stackable Credentials

## **Certificates in:**

Communications, Fine Arts,  
Logistics and Uncrewed Aerial Systems

## **Exploration of Future Offerings:**

Forensic Psychology  
Global Challenges  
History & Government  
Technical Writing



Pre-Entry to Admission Admission to Day 1

**Explore**  
Admission  
New Student  
Orientation  
Support Services

**Connect**  
Intake Form  
Register  
Advising

**Engage**  
ESE/Ed Plan  
Choose Pathway  
Engl/Math

**Learn**  
Equity-minded  
Faculty  
Early Alert  
Peer Educators

**Achieve**  
Career Connections  
Transfer  
Enter Workforce

**Thrive**  
Alumni connection  
Con't Ed  
Community  
Engagement

# Statesman Steps

A Guided Pathways Approach

First Year  
Continuing

Third Semester

Final Semester

Completing

Graduation and Beyond



# University-Parallel Experience



**Advance** (Academics)



**Connect** (University College)



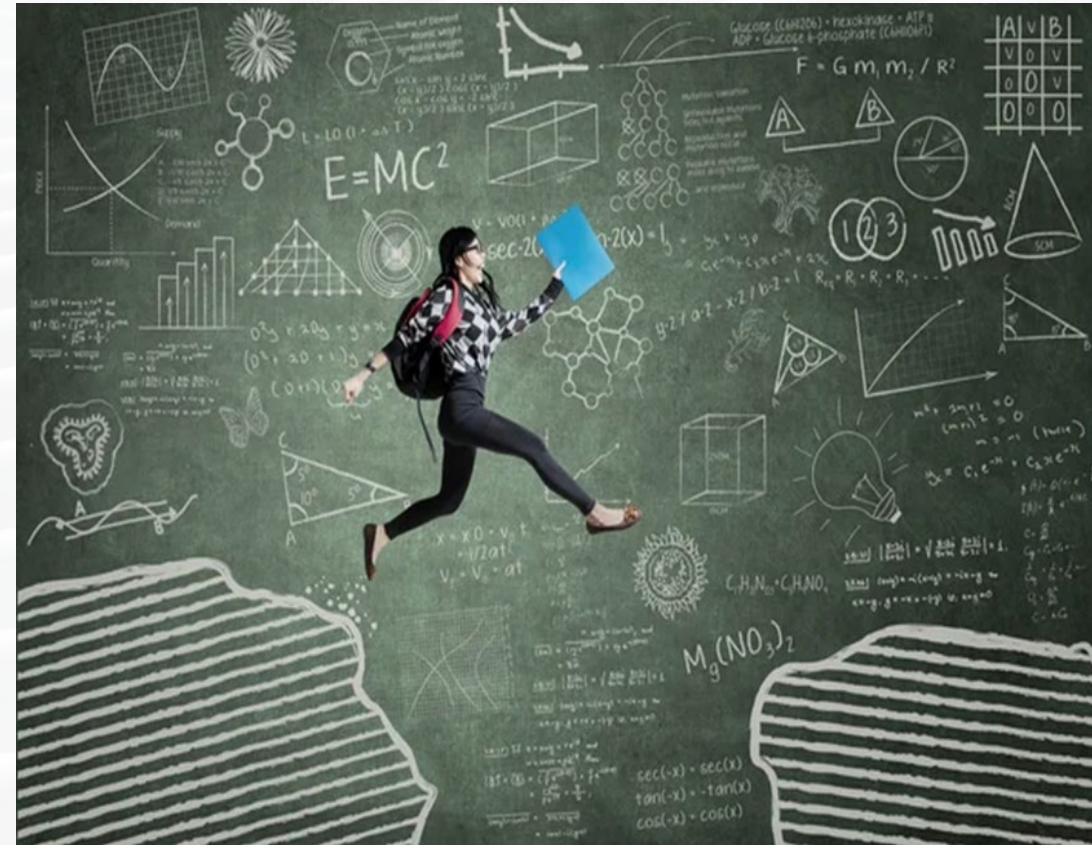
**Elevate** (Dual Enrollment)



**Thrive** (Statesman Athletics)



**Belong** (Student Life)



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UNIVERSITY CENTER



**DR. ANN IFEKWUNIGWE**  
Director, University College



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RBC: *CONNECT*

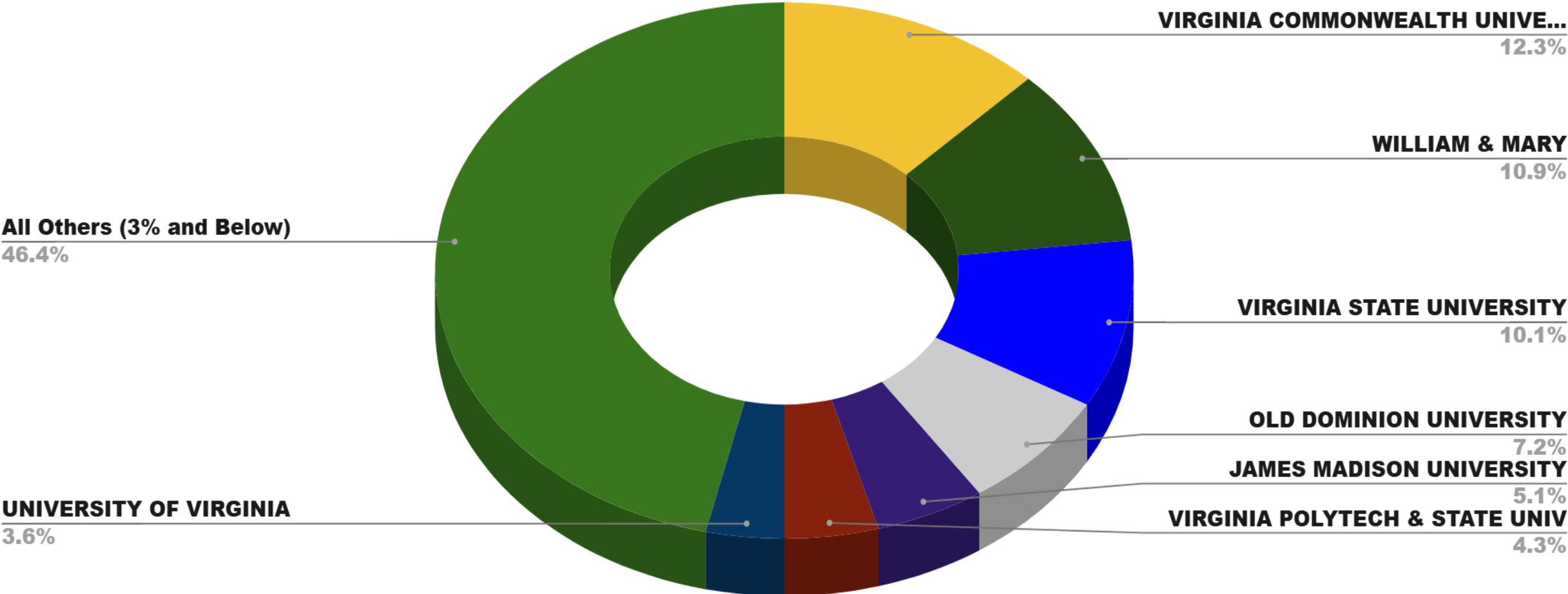
# University College

*Where will you go from here?*



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# 2024 RBC Graduates' Top Transfer Schools



# RBC Connect: College Tours

## Massachusetts Institute of Technology



## Johns Hopkins University



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# RBC Connect: College Tours

## UVA Engineering Open House





# RBC Connect: College Tours

## Virginia Tech Open House



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# Transfer Scholars Network (TSN)

## TSN Eligibility

### Required:

- 3.5 or Higher GPA
- Family Income Under \$100,000

### Recommended:

- Active in RBC Campus Life
- RBC Honors Program
- Service to Community

transfer  
scholars  
network

COLLEGE  
EXCELLENCE  
PROGRAM  
aspen institute

**Richard Bland is a TSN Partner College**



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# RBC Connect: TSN 4-Year Partners

Amherst College

Bates

Bowdoin



Cornell University



MOUNT HOLYOKE

Northwestern



Williams College



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# Michael Mason



- **RBC Pre Med Major (Class of '24)**
- **First Generation College Student**
- **3 Day Amherst Visit** (Funded by Amherst)
- **Attending Amherst College**
  - Awarded \$95,000 Financial Aid for 2024-2025 (\$0 Debt)
  - JKCF Scholarship Recipient (Up to \$55,000 per year)
  - Family Fellowship Foundation (Up to \$12,000 per year)

# Giselle Villalta

- **RBC Science Major (Class of '24)**
- **Attending William & Mary**
- **RBC Promise Scholar (\$0 Debt!)**
- **Pursuing a Career in Biomedical Engineering**





# **MS. CHRISTIE CLARKE**

Director, Dual Enrollment &  
High School Programs

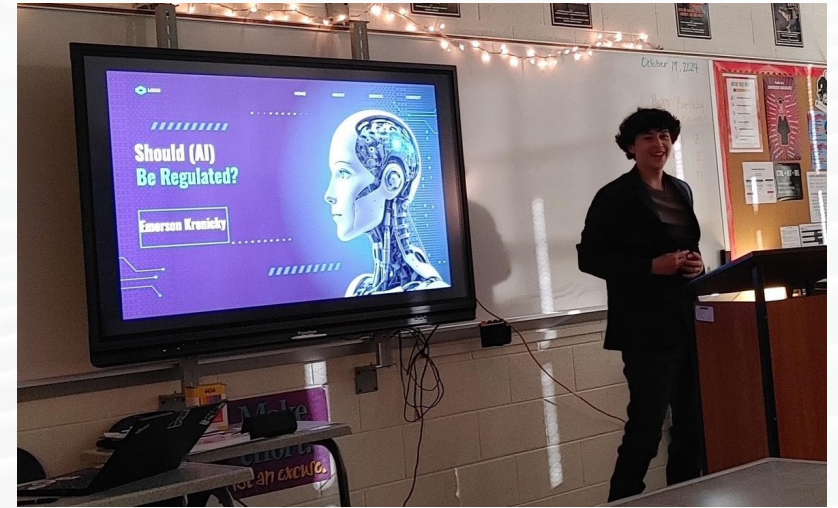


# BENEFITS



# MODALITIES

- **Courses taught by credentialed high school instructors at high school**
- **Courses taught by RBC instructors on RBC campus**
- **Courses taught by RBC instructors online**



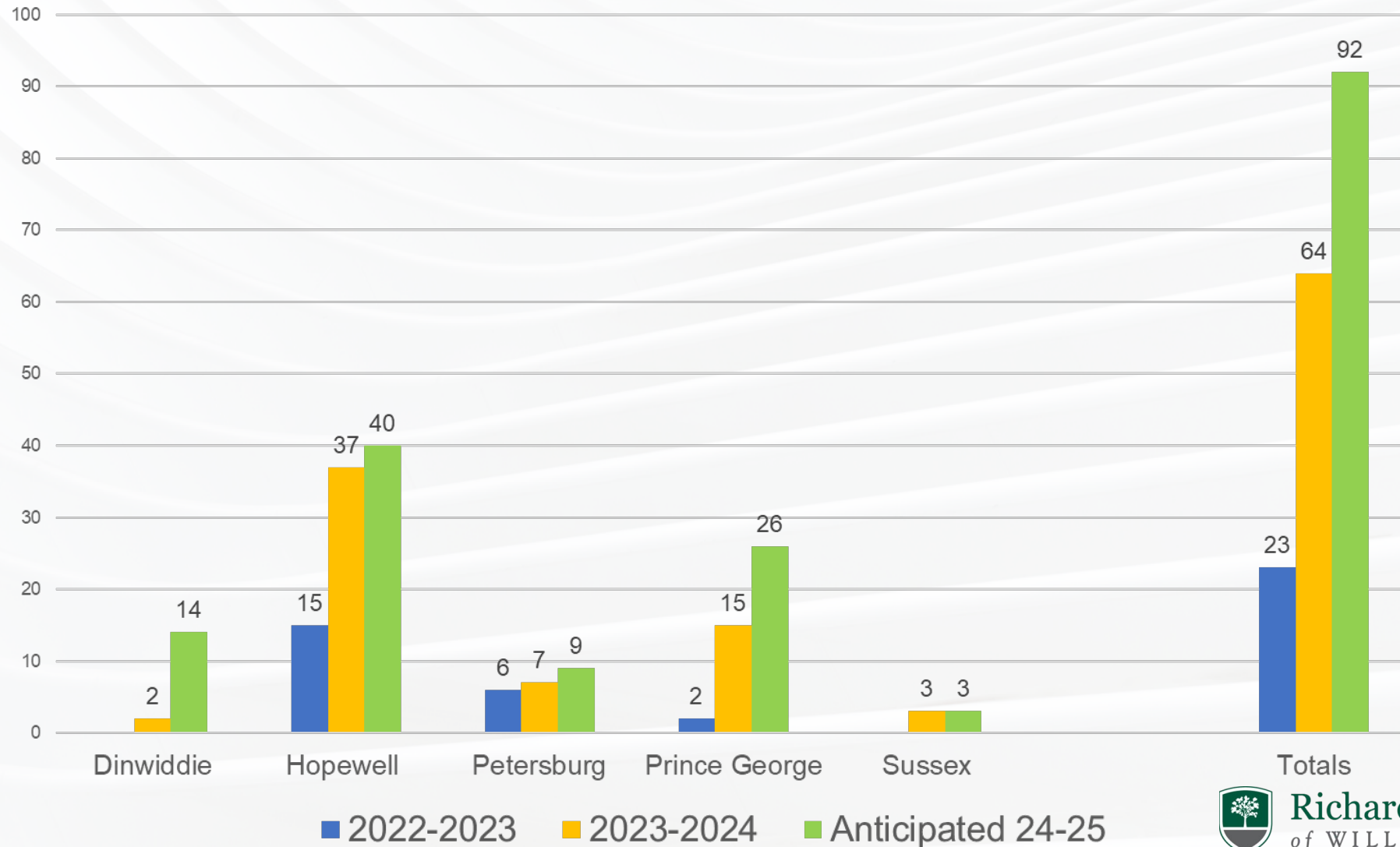


# ENROLLMENT

	2022-2023	2023-2024	Fall 2024
Off-campus DE	1546	1927	1824
On-campus DE	49	65	56
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1595</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1880</b>



# AS DEGREES AWARDED



# RBC *Thrive*: Athletics



**MR. SCOTT NEWTON**  
Athletics Director



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**RBC *Thrive*: Athletics**

# Strategic Plan

2024-2027



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# Mission



**Richard Bland College Athletics' mission is to provide students with the ability to develop academically, professionally, and athletically. To reach our potential, we are built on three core values: Accountability, Integrity, and Success.**



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## Since intercollegiate athletics was reinstated in 2013:

- **2 National Championships**
- **2 National Runner Ups**
- **4 Final Four Appearances**
- **13 Conference Championships**



## Male Sports

- **Baseball**
- **Basketball**
- **Cross Country**
- **Indoor Track**
- **Outdoor Track**
- **Soccer**

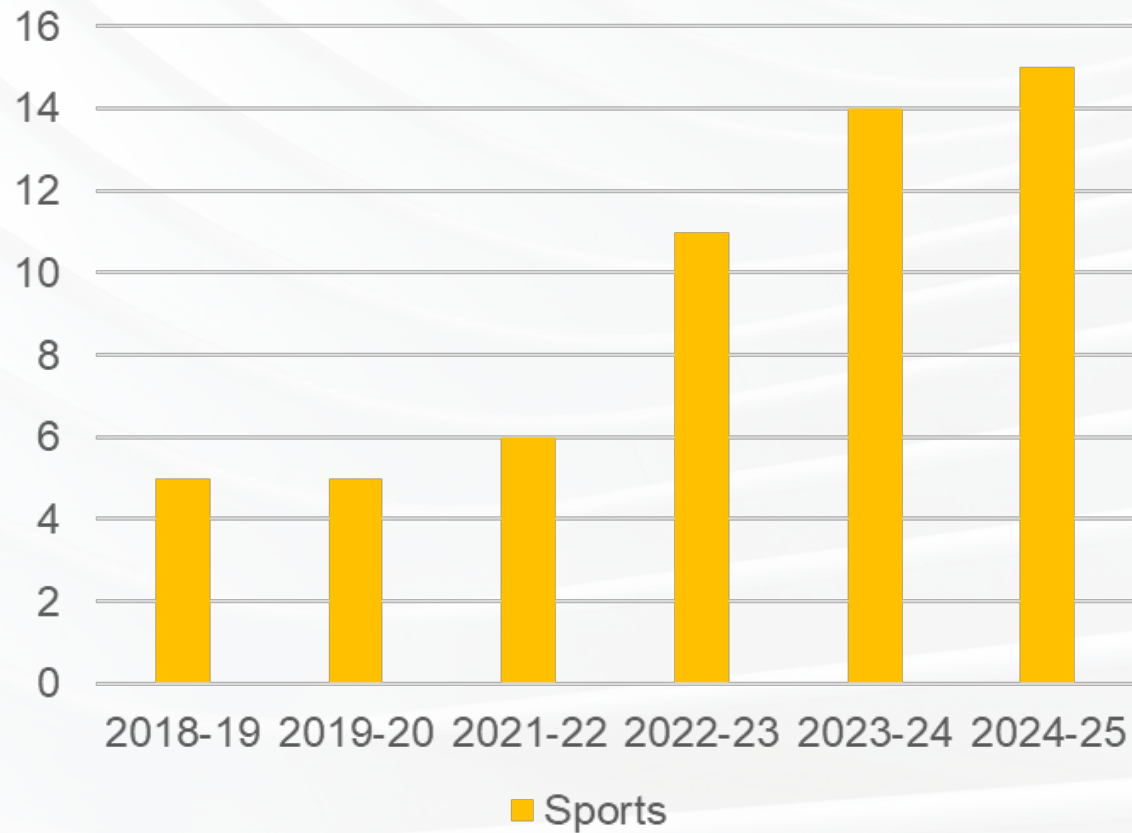
## Female Sports

- **Basketball**
- **Cross Country**
- **Indoor Track**
- **Outdoor Track**
- **Beach Volleyball**
- **Indoor Volleyball**
- **Soccer**
- **Softball**

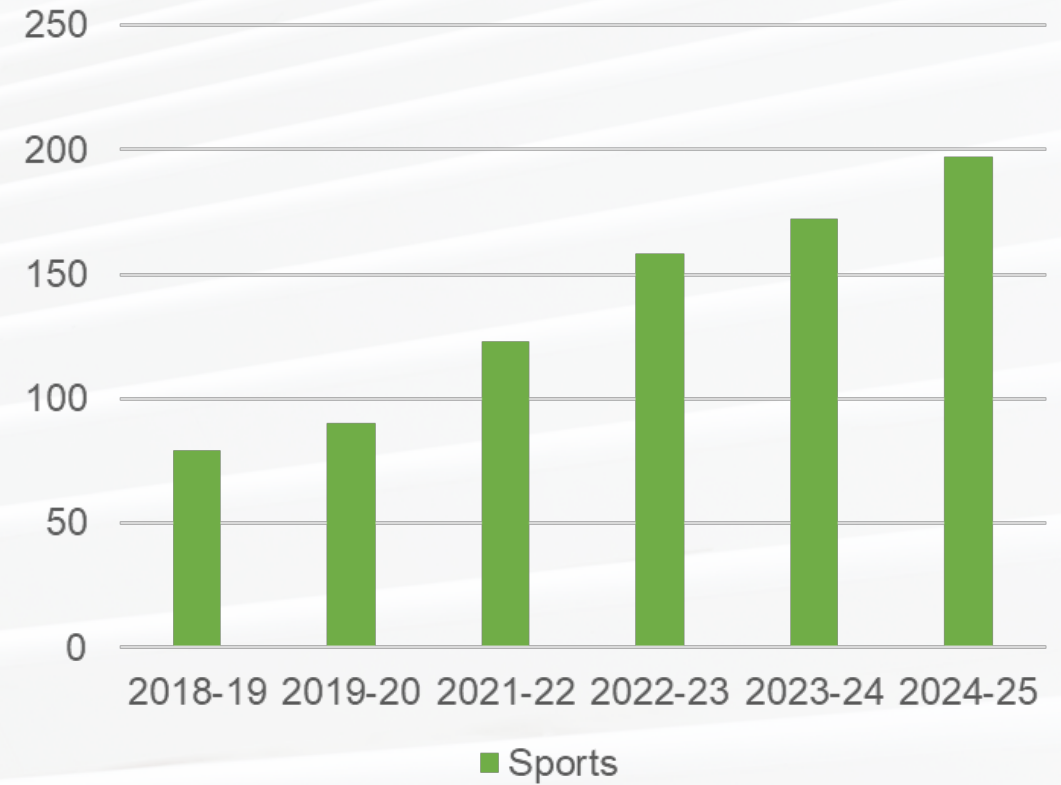


# Expansion

## Sports



## Athletes





# Strategic Priorities

- **Provide an unmatched student-athlete experience**
- **Develop a culture that is built on the core values**
- **Recruit and retain high performing student-athletes and coaches**
- **Maintain and improve competitive excellence**
- **Develop resources to increase sustainability**



# Strategic Priorities

## Student Athlete Experience

- **Instill a culture that promotes safety, excellence, and wellness**
- **Enrich the student athlete experience by developing a comprehensive life skills and transfer program**



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# Strategic Priorities

## Culture

- **Operate in full compliance with the institutional, state, federal, and NJCAA regulations**
- **Encourage and support an atmosphere of diversity and inclusion**
- **Support and sustain gender equity**



# Strategic Priorities

## Academic Excellence

- **Attract and recruit student-athletes who are prepared to be challenged and succeed academically**
- **Recognize and celebrate high achieving student-athletes**



## Competitive Excellence

- **Compete for Region and National Championships**
- **Improve and maintain facilities that provide the best opportunities to be successful**
- **Recruit and retain highly-qualified and successful coaches**



# Strategic Priorities

## Resource Development

- **Work with Office of Advancement and implement plans to use success and mission of the athletic department to fundraise**
- **Increase all external revenue streams in support of athletics**
- **Invest in community and fan engagement at home athletic events**



**RBC Belong: Student Life**



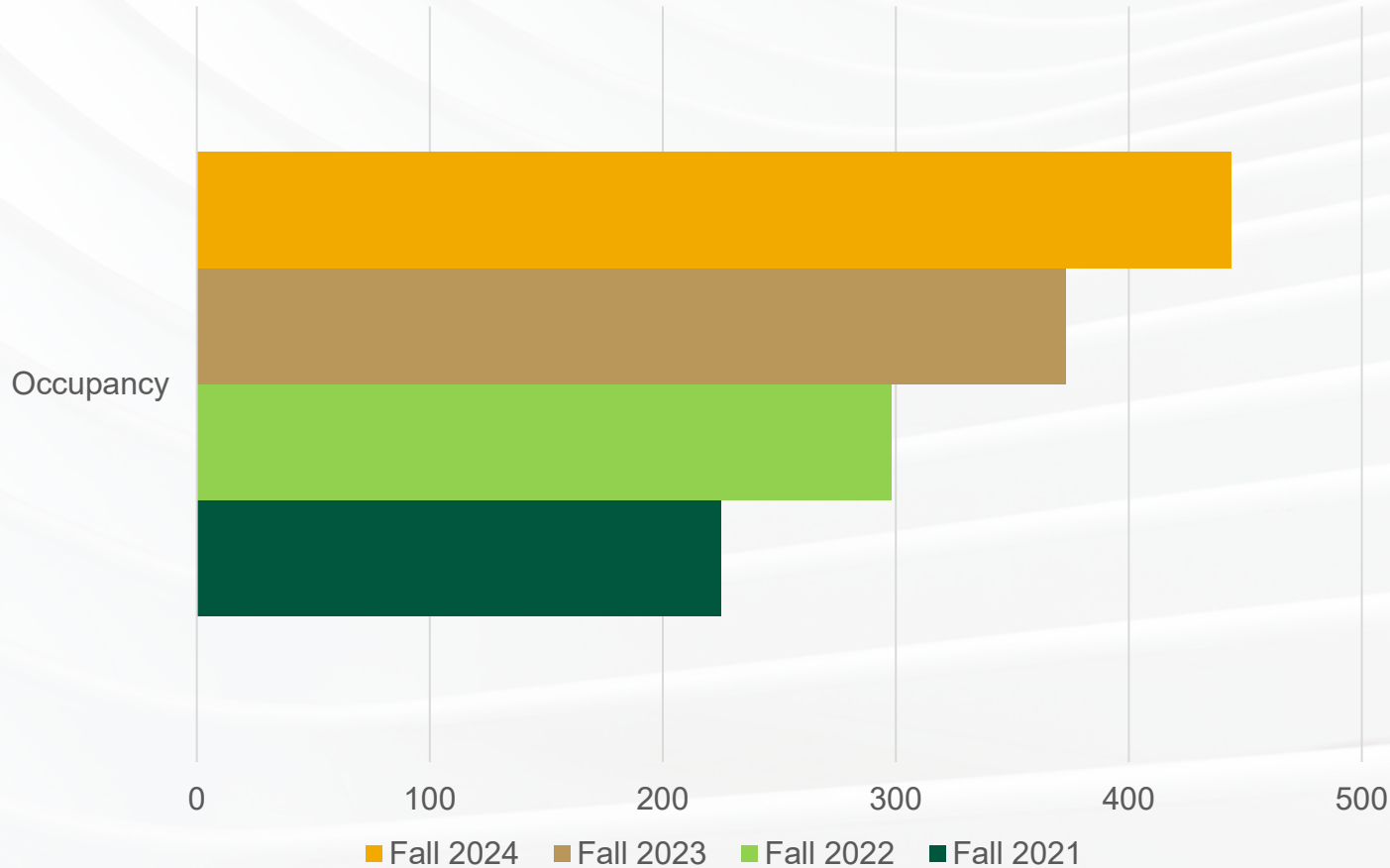
**MR. ISAIAH LUCAS**  
Director, Student Life



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# HOUSING OCCUPANCY

## 4 - Year Housing Occupancy



**Goal Capacity (< 90%)**





# Five Components of Student Belonging

Students' sense of belonging on campus is one of the top factors in their retention and persistence. But belonging is hard to define and even harder to measure. Through a review of academic literature and conversations with university leaders, EAB has broken down student belonging into **five specific, defined components**—each with specific best practices that leaders can put in place. Students who have all five components are much more likely to feel they belong and to stay engaged with the university even after they graduate.



1

Seamless Student  
Experience

2

Mental Health  
and Wellbeing

3

Active and  
Engaged Learning

4

Cocurricular and  
Social Engagement

5

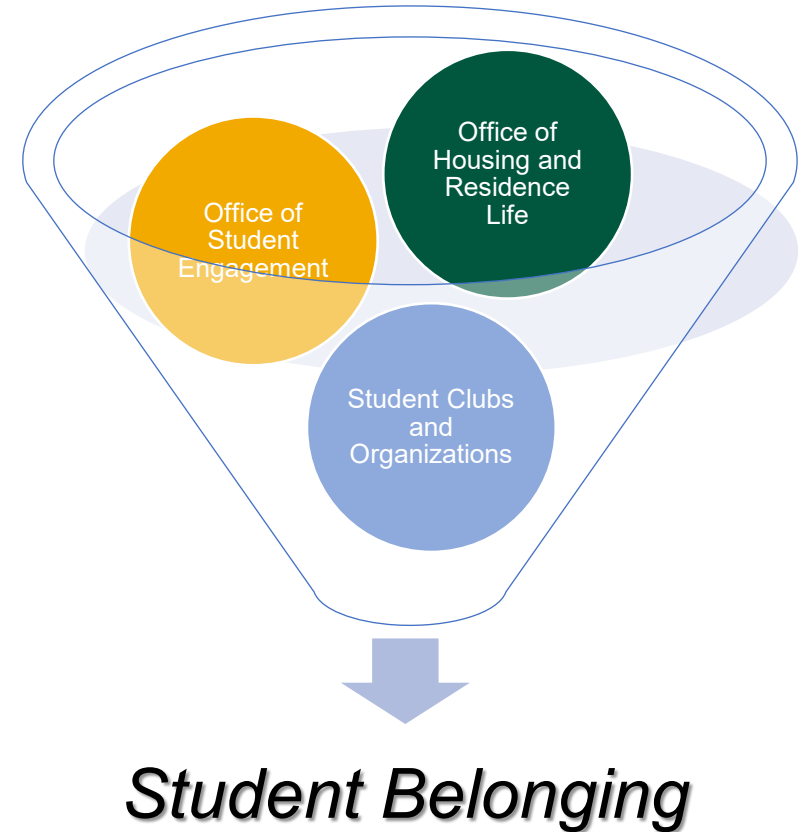
Faculty Mentoring  
and Support

## Mission

**The Department of Housing and Student Life:**

- **Student Engagement**
- **Housing and Residence Life**
- **Campus Clubs and Organizations**

**We are dedicated to fostering a vibrant, inclusive campus community. Through collaborative efforts, we provide dynamic, out-of-the-classroom experiences that promote student belonging, personal growth, and success. By creating opportunities for engagement, leadership, and connection, we empower students to thrive both academically and socially.**





## How

- On Campus Housing
- Living-Learning Communities
- Student Government and Clubs
- Programs and Events
- Student Leadership Development
- Diversity and Inclusion Observances



## Why

- Retention, Persistence, and Graduation
- Campus Involvement and Leadership
- Mental and Emotional Well-Being



**MS. STACEY SOKOL**

Chief Business Officer



### **APA FY23:**

- **Remediation/corrective action under review by Internal Audit**

### **Internal Audit:**

- **APA FY23 audit remediation review in progress:**
  - **Status Update: Significant corrective action taken**
- **ARMICS follow-up is completed and fully remediated**
- **IT Security audit follow-up in progress with only one open item**



FINANCE UPDATE



**MS. MELISSA MAHONEY**

Controller



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## **Budget-to-Actuals through 9/30/24**

**Current operating revenues: \$12.2M**

- **Realized 41% of overall budgeted revenue**

**Current operating expenses: \$8.6M**

- **Approx. 29% of total budgeted expenses**





- **Spring 2025 semester student billing**
  - 63% of Auxiliary budgeted revenue already received
  - 55% of Tuition/Fee budgeted revenue already received
- **FY26 Budget Development Planning**
  - Annual mandatory training for budget managers
- **Annual APA Audit Preparation**





# MR. JEFF PALMORE

Capital Square Strategies, LLC  
Principal



# FACULTY & STUDENT REPORT



**DR. DANIEL FRANKE**  
RBC Faculty Representative



**MR. SERGIO PEREZ**  
RBC Student Representative



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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



AI AND THE RBC  
STUDENT EXPERIENCE



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# 1. Social and Behavioral Sciences

## Government 202 The U.S. in World Affairs

### Teach the AI: AI as student

- **Purpose:** more fully explore the use of AI in preparation for a writing assignment; help refine ideas and arguments for the upcoming analysis paper
- **Step 1:** Navigate to ChatGPT: <https://chatgpt.com/Links to an external site.> (Note: you do not need to create an account for this assignment)
- **Step 2:** Copy and Paste the prompt at the bottom of this assignment (Note: you do not need to change any of the text)
- **Step 3:** ChatGPT will ask you which role it wants you to play - choose either option
- **Step 4:** It will then ask you what topic you would like to teach it - here are your options for this assignment (taken from the analysis paper prompt):
  - Option 1: How do the values and principles of the United States help shape (or not) its foreign policy?
  - Option 2: Why is it possible to identify the US as both a "leader and outlier" in regard to promoting human rights?
  - Option 3: How has the rise of irregular warfare, especially via terrorism and cyber war, shaped power dynamics between international actors?
- **Copy and paste one of these options into ChatGPT and press "Enter"**
- **Step 5:** You will then enter into a dialogue with ChatGPT as it asks you questions, often encouraging you to provide more evidence/greater clarification. Continue engaging with ChatGPT until the end of the simulation (it will let you know when your session has concluded).
- **Step 6:** Share your chat by clicking on "Share" at the top right hand corner - copy and paste the url into the textbox for this Canvas assignment
- **Step 7:** Run through another exercise with a different question and follow the same steps
- **Step 8:** Reflect on this assignment (3-5 sentences) - did working with the AI help you better understand the questions? Do you feel more comfortable in writing this analysis paper? How would you assess the performance of the AI - poor, average, excellent, something else? Were there areas where the AI performed well but struggled elsewhere?

# History 201 U.S. History to 1865

## History 201 Research Project

### Part 1 Asking Questions, Gathering Resources: AI, Search Engines, Libraries, and Databases

**Assignment Overview:** Where do you begin when you develop a project? Tosh discussed two different ways of starting a project: 1) take a batch of sources and go through them, taking note of everything and letting your research develop organically, or 2) read the secondary, scholarly literature and look at materials discussed by historians. As we discussed and you contemplated in your first exam, there are drawbacks to each one.

This assignment takes a third approach: how do you even know what sources exist or what scholarly analysis exists if you've never done this before, or never studied this subject before?

To that end, you will focus here on the following tools to gather information and develop the beginnings of your research plan:

1. AI-assisted questions and queries ([ChatGPT](#), [Copilot](#), and [Gemini](#))
2. [Google](#) or [Bing](#) search (now assisted by [Gemini](#) and [Copilot](#), respectively)
3. [Wikipedia](#) (still the best crowd-sourced encyclopedia with extensive bibliographies and links to sources)
4. The [RBC Library Catalog](#)
5. The [RBC Library databases](#) page

**Your task:** Start with one of the AI engines and begin by asking it a question about your topic. From the answer you get, ask follow up questions of increasing specificity. For a quick and useful primer on this, see [Mastering the Art of AI Inquiry](#).

# 2. Language and Humanities: Looking ahead to Spring, 2025

## English 216 Honors Digital Literacy assignments

### 1. Co-Authoring with AI: A Storytelling Experiment

#### Assignment Overview:

This assignment explores the intersection of human creativity and artificial intelligence in the process of storytelling. You will use an AI tool (such as ChatGPT or another AI writer) to co-author a short story, poem, or narrative, blending your creative vision with the capabilities of the AI. The goal is to experiment with how AI can enhance or challenge your creative process, while reflecting on the ethical and artistic implications of AI-generated content.

#### Learning Objectives:

- Develop storytelling skills by collaborating with AI in the creative process.
- Reflect on the relationship between human creativity and machine-generated content.
- Critically examine the ethical considerations of using AI in creative writing.
- Explore new forms of narrative and creativity that merge technology and traditional artistic methods.

### 2. Ethical Use of AI in Digital Media and Society

#### Assignment Overview:

This assignment explores the ethical implications of AI technologies in digital environments. You will critically analyze the role of AI in shaping digital content, decision-making, and social behavior, and then propose strategies for using AI responsibly and ethically. The assignment aims to encourage a nuanced understanding of AI's potential and challenges, especially regarding privacy, bias, misinformation, and social justice.

#### Learning Objectives:

- Understand the ethical principles involved in the development and use of AI technologies.
- Identify and critically assess ethical issues related to AI in digital media, including bias, privacy, and misinformation.
- Develop strategies for promoting the ethical use of AI in various digital contexts.
- Communicate and defend your position on ethical AI use through written and/or multimedia formats.

### 3. AI and the RBC Student Experience

Image: college students studying in a library using AI tools. Created using ChatGPT





# QUESTIONS?



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**Thank you**