

## **Community College Philanthropists Honored with 2018 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy**

**Richmond** – The Laughing Gull Foundation has received the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. The progressive family foundation proud of its' commitment to justice was nominated for the award by Southside Virginia Community College.

More than two dozen individuals, families, and businesses from around Virginia have earned the 2018 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy. The awards were presented at a luncheon ceremony in Richmond on Tuesday, April 17th, 2018.

Hosted by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE), the 13<sup>th</sup> annual event honors leading philanthropists from each of Virginia's 23 community colleges as well as the statewide foundation. This year's class of distinguished philanthropy leaders has contributed a combined total of \$6 million dollars to Virginia's Community Colleges.

Laughing Gull Foundation is a progressive family foundation proud of its' commitment to justice. As a steadfast advocate of higher education in prison, the Southside Virginia Community College's Campus Within Walls(CWW) program appealed to the Foundation. Targeting higher education in prisons, LGF aimed to increase access to credit-bearing college courses for incarcerated individuals. Beginning in 2015, LGF awarded scholarships to incarcerated men at the Lunenburg Correctional Center who were involved in the CWW program. Recently, the group awarded additional funding to hire a coordinator to keep the program operational.

Keynote speaker Paul Koonce, executive vice president & president and chief executive officer with the Power Generation Group, Dominion Energy, called the community college system "one of Virginia's greatest inventions." He also borrowed a passage from a 1903 Teddy Roosevelt speech to underscore the invaluable connection between higher education and opportunity.

"Far and away, the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing. Our purpose (as donors) is to make sure that prize – meaningful work – the best prize that life offers, remains within reach of every Virginian."

### **Recipients of the 2018 *Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy*:**

<b>BLUE RIDGE</b>	Mr. and Mrs. L. Ronald Smith
<b>CENTRAL VIRGINIA</b>	Wells Fargo Bank- Lynchburg Region
<b>DABNEY S. LANCASTER</b>	Temple Baptist Church and Ovelia Worsham Estate
<b>DANVILLE</b>	Anita J. Wyatt
<b>EASTERN SHORE</b>	Virginia Space and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport
<b>GERMANNA</b>	Ed C. Dalrymple, Jr.
<b>J SARGEANT REYNOLDS</b>	The Lipman Foundation

<b>JOHN TYLER</b>	Mr. J. Richard and Mrs. Jeannine Commander
<b>LORD FAIRFAX</b>	Nick and Kathy Nerangis
<b>MOUNTAIN EMPIRE</b>	Donna Stanley
<b>NEW RIVER</b>	Eddie and Kathy Hale
<b>NORTHERN VIRGINIA</b>	Northrop Gunman
<b>PATRICK HENRY</b>	The Martinsville Speedway and the Campbell Family
<b>PAUL D CAMP</b>	Mrs. June Fleming
<b>PIEDMONT</b>	Wendy Brown
<b>RAPPAHANNOCK</b>	Northern Neck Electric Cooperative
<b>SOUTHSIDE VA</b>	The Laughing Gull Foundation
<b>SOUTHWEST VA</b>	Dr. Charles R. King
<b>THOMAS NELSON</b>	Continental Automotive Systems, Inc.
<b>TIDEWATER</b>	Elizabeth River Crossings, LLC
<b>VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS</b>	The Landmark Foundation
<b>VIRGINIA WESTERN</b>	First Bank and Trust Company
<b>WYTHEVILLE</b>	Friendship Health & Living
<b>VFCCE</b>	Charles G. Crockett
	Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Whitt

**About Virginia's Community Colleges:** Since 1966, Virginia's Community Colleges have given everyone the opportunity to learn and develop the right skills so lives and communities are strengthened. By making higher education and workforce training available in every part of Virginia, we elevate all of Virginia. Together, Virginia's Community Colleges serve more than 252,000 students each year. For more information, please visit [www.vccs.edu](http://www.vccs.edu).

**About the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education:** Working hand in hand with Virginia's 23 community colleges, the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education seeks to guarantee financial assistance to all students who dream of attending college. The foundation is building an endowment that is already generating interest to provide full scholarships to selected community college students; helping more Virginia foster youth pursue and complete higher education through the Great Expectations program; and leading a partnership to improve rural Virginia's education pipeline through the Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative. Learn how the Virginia Foundation for Community College is building the future of Virginia. Visit [VFCCE.org](http://VFCCE.org).