

New College Institute Resolution Establishing Patrick & Henry Community College Center for Workforce and Economic Development at the Baldwin Building

WHEREAS in response to the loss of thousands of manufacturing jobs in the 1990s, local civic and political leaders identified the need for improved access to higher public four-year university education and began to advocate for the establishment of a college in southern Virginia. Thus, the concept of New College Institute (NCI) was born; and

WHEREAS in 2004 a bipartisan coalition of state and local officials spearheaded legislation to establish a college in southern Virginia. To sustain the legislative momentum, the Harvest Foundation of the Piedmont pledged \$50 million towards the establishment of a state-supported, baccalaureate-level college in Martinsville-Henry County; and

WHEREAS in 2006 NCI was officially established by state charter as an educational institution located in the Martinsville and Henry County area with its primary mission to expand educational opportunities, develop a skilled workforce, and diversify the region's economy, which had historically relied on tobacco, furniture and textiles. NCI sought to achieve these goals by partnering with other higher education institutions and engaging with both public and private sector organizations in the region and in the Commonwealth. It aimed to be a catalyst for economic and community transformation by leveraging resources and facilitating the development of technology and a trained workforce needed for new economic enterprises; and

WHEREAS NCI collaborated with state universities in its early years, bringing in faculty and paying universities for partnerships. Enrollment grew from 118 students in 2006-2007 to 329 students in 2017-2018. NCI helped 403 students obtain bachelor's and master's degrees during that time. Outreach efforts were conducted, making at least 5,000 contacts annually with students and families. NCI partnered with Virginia colleges to offer degrees in fields important to the Southern Virginia region. They also offered K-12 programming and experiential learning opportunities. Facilities grew into the classroom building on Franklin Street, the lab on Fayette Street and the Jefferson Plaza; and

WHEREAS Longwood University provides two remaining degree programs at NCI serving a total of twenty-seven students in the spring semester of 2024; and

WHEREAS ground was broken in 2012 for the new 52,000 sq. ft. facility and construction was completed in June 2014; and

WHEREAS the mission of New College Institute is to be a premier center of learning that provides access to academic degrees, credentials, non-credential, hands-on-training, and professional learning experiences in high quality learning environments to prepare students for regional and statewide career opportunities and participation in collaborative, positive community change, promoting regional economic prosperity and community transformation. And its Vision is that NCI will provide the best of both traditional and innovative postsecondary education through academic and workforce partnerships that are defined by creative thinking and problem-solving--all designed with the ultimate goal of being responsive to the current and future needs of employers in our region and beyond. New College Institute's values enabling

students in the Martinsville-Henry County region to complete college and advanced degree programs that will provide them with enhanced life opportunities and to provide advanced certifications and training that will enable the people of the region to increase the skill levels most relevant to their careers. NCI values providing students with support that will enable them to achieve excellence. Furthermore, NCI values working collaboratively with community colleges, four-year institutions, business and nonprofit partners to provide effective and cost-efficient access to higher education, increasing the percentage of adults with college degrees in the Martinsville-Henry County area and the commitment to higher education among the area's citizens, and making a positive contribution to the region's economic development strategy, and serving the broader community through K-12 collaborations; and

WHEREAS the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) aims to strengthen Virginia by providing accessible, quality, and affordable educational opportunities that empower students and support workforce development for economic growth. Its mission focuses on giving everyone the chance to learn skills, develop their potential, and contribute to stronger communities and a more prosperous Commonwealth.

Key aspects of the VCCS mission include:

- Empowering individuals:
Providing opportunities for personal growth, acquiring knowledge, and developing the skills necessary for life and career success.
- Strengthening communities:
Fostering economic development and community betterment through educational programs and workforce training.
- Providing accessible education:
Offering open, flexible, and affordable learning options, including credit and non-credit programs, for diverse learners.
- Supporting the workforce:
Addressing the training needs of businesses and industries to fuel economic growth and career readiness.
- Promoting a culture of success:
Cultivating an environment of care, support, and inclusivity for students and employees, which is a core value across the system.
- Building partnerships:
Collaborating with businesses, government, and communities to create strategic partnerships that advance Virginia's future; and

WHEREAS P&HCC's Statement of Purpose is: The Virginia Community College System and Patrick & Henry Community College are committed to providing comprehensive higher

education and workforce training programs and services that are financially and geographically accessible and that meet individual, business, and community needs of the Commonwealth. P&HCC's mission is committed to economic mobility and to enriching the quality of life in our service region through academic excellence, educational affordability, student success, workforce development, and community engagement. P&HCC's vision is to be the educational catalyst that provides access to economic prosperity for our community; and

WHEREAS the New College Foundation (a separate 501(c)3 organization) began receiving private gifts and grants in 2007 in support of NCI and organized a campaign to establish an endowment; and

WHEREAS P&HCC's rapidly growing Fast Forward programs provide short-term credentials leading directly to employment. Current offerings are delivered at multiple locations and over the last six years, these programs have grown by nearly 500%, placing continued demands on available space. Current enrollment indicates that a seventh year of growth is likely. Consolidating these programs into a state-of-the-art facility will provide the potential for even greater growth; and

WHEREAS P&HCC leadership envisions the creation of the Patrick & Henry Community College Center for Workforce and Economic Development at the Baldwin Building that will create a unique opportunity to accelerate the economic development of the region while aligning several regional workforce development programs and initiatives as well as advanced learning and community development. This includes bringing advanced education opportunities to the citizens of Martinsville and Henry County. The college is confident that additional four-year university partners can be recruited to deliver "Bachelors and Beyond" programming in pathways that are essential to the continued economic resurgence of the region including the current partnership with Longwood University. P&HCC possesses rich partnerships with all the public and private colleges in the Commonwealth and has guaranteed transfer agreements with each public institution. Further, their strong program-specific articulation agreements with many of the state's universities create further opportunities to bring advanced learning credentials to the new Patrick & Henry Community College's Center for Workforce and Economic Development at the Baldwin Building. Additionally, P&HCC's robust community training and enrichment initiatives can include programs such as the Piedmont Regional Criminal Justice Training Academy, and others as well as community events currently hosted to ensure that these regional partnerships are not impacted by the transition; and

WHEREAS Patrick & Henry Community College is the education and training partner for the Martinsville Henry County Economic Development Corporation (EDC), which is located in the Baldwin Building. The missions of the EDC and P&HCC are interwoven; thus, collocating these organizations and programs under one roof is a model that can significantly accelerate the economic renaissance occurring within the region. President and CEO Mark Heath has expressed overwhelming support for transitioning the building to P&HCC; and

WHEREAS the use of the NCI building frees up additional space in other P&HCC facilities to assist with accommodating the West Piedmont Region of Virginia Career Works (VCW) request to locate their regional offices on the college's campus. VCW serves as a vital link between job seekers and employers in the region and has been a critical partner to P&HCC as they seek to equip students with the skills and competencies they need to become successful employees and potential employers. Additionally, P&HCC partners with a regional agency to deliver entrepreneurship training and education to individuals seeking to start or grow their small businesses. The training has been immensely successful, creating another opportunity for regional economic growth. Many of the graduates of these programs seek office space from which to operate and/or expand their businesses. P&HCC seeks to provide a Small Business Accelerator space to allow entrepreneurs the opportunity to lease affordable space while simultaneously being mentored to more rapidly launch or expand their small business; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Virginia bought NCI's main campus building from the New College Foundation and that relationship between NCI and its initial foundation became strained after 2020; and

WHEREAS the mission of The MHC Academic Foundation (formerly New College Foundation) is to provide financial and other support for the dissemination of education in Martinsville and Henry County, Virginia, and the MHC Academic Foundation believes that the Patrick & Henry Community College Center for Workforce and Economic Development proposal is consistent with that mission; and

WHEREAS New College Institute was founded to boost educational and economic opportunities, initially partnering with universities, and through the years its operational model has changed to attempt to meet its mission. The higher education environment has evolved dramatically, and NCI has faced significant challenges after 2020; and

WHEREAS the mission and vision of NCI closely parallel that of the Virginia Community College System and Patrick & Henry Community College; and

WHEREAS the efficiency and effectiveness of the region's overall educational levels, economic development efforts and the quality of the region's workforce will achieve great improvement with the establishment of the Patrick & Henry Community College Center for Workforce and Economic Development which will lead to greater economic opportunities for the people of Martinsville, Henry County, Southside Virginia and the Commonwealth. Further, the alignment of several regional workforce development agencies will serve to accelerate the community's growth and maximize the overall economic development attractiveness of the area for future employers.; and

WHEREAS local state legislators representing Martinsville and Henry County Senator Bill Stanely and Delegate Eric Phillips, support the establishment of the Patrick & Henry Community College Center for Workforce Development; and

WHEREAS the Harvest Foundation supports the establishment of the Patrick & Henry Community College Center for Workforce and Economic Development; and

WHEREAS that the New College Institute Board current annual NCI state appropriation of \$3,101,089 million must be transferred and continued to P&HCC for the two-year biennium in order to provide sufficient resources to fully execute an effective transition, to successfully launch the Patrick & Henry Community College Center for Workforce and Economic Development at the Baldwin Building; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the NCI Board of Directors recognizes and expresses its grateful appreciation to the countless volunteers, staff, community leaders, organizations and political leaders for their tremendous contributions that helped NCI achieve many positive programmatic outcomes for the citizens of Martinsville, Henry County and the Commonwealth of Virginia during the last 20 plus years; and be it further

RESOLVED that the New College Institute Board recognizes that the higher education environment has evolved dramatically during this time and that our communities' efforts must evolve to improve the lives of our citizens; and be it further

RESOLVED that the mission and vision of New College Institute can best be achieved through P&HCC and the establishment of the Patrick & Henry Community College Center for Workforce and Economic Development using the Baldwin building to house the college's rapidly expanding Fast Forward programs, which are short-term credentials leading directly to employment; and be it further

RESOLVED that the New College Institute Board recognizes the current annual NCI state appropriation of \$3,101,089 must be appropriated to P&HCC for the two-year biennium in order to provide sufficient resources to fully execute the transition, staff the facility, and make all necessary building changes to successfully launch the Patrick & Henry Community College Center for Workforce and Economic Development at the Baldwin Building. The state budget requires transferring the \$3,101,089 from NCI Budget to the Virginia Community College System and adding the appropriation language to (Item 200), Educational and General Program (10000): *Out of this appropriation, \$3,101,809 in in the first year and \$3,101,809 in the second year from the general fund is used to support the Patrick & Henry Community College Center for Workforce and Economic Development at the Baldwin Building*; and be it further

RESOLVED that the New College Institute Board of Directors requests the Secretary of Education to assist with the development of an executable plan to effectuate this transfer as soon as possible.