



Virginia's Voice for Access

Virginia College Access Network Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 20th

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Virginia Museum of History and Culture, Reynold's Room

428 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd. Richmond, VA 23220

Board Members Present: Lyons Sanchezconcha (President), TeCarla Moore (Vice President), Jan Smith (Treasurer), Alex Johnston (Secretary), Reshaud Rich, Anne Michie, Ashley Woodous, Laura Clark, Erin McGrath, Ted Raspiller, July Coleman, Jazmin Montano Aguilar, Shaun Mooney, Dennis Coan, Scott Kemp (Past-President)

Guests Present: Joshua Mann (conference committee co-chair), Lee Andes

Board Members Absent: Brittany Everett

- **Welcome: Lyons**
 - Meeting was called to order at 12:14pm
 - Board members introduced themselves and shared why they are in the field of college access
- **Lunch & Work in Committees/Task Force**
- **Approval of May Minutes & Adoption of June Agenda: Lyons**
 - Call for revisions to May meeting minutes and June agenda
 - May meeting minutes moved to be approved by Ted; motion seconded by TeCarla; motion passes unanimously
 - June meeting agenda moved to be approved by Anne; motion seconded by Jan; motion passes unanimously
 - Alex will report on school counselor engagement committee on behalf of Brittany
- **Treasurer's Report: Jan**
 - Printed written report provided to all board members
- **Committee Report Out: Committee Chairs**
 - *Exec Committee: Lyons*
 - **President's Report & Updates**
 - Lyons discusses an opportunity for VCAN to sponsor an initiative to better inform Virginians about the VASA; the initiative would include a graphic with QR code that can link to more information about the VASA; VCAN would allocate \$5,000 for the initiative
 - Erin discusses SCHEV taking the donation in kind and matching it
 - Lee shares that the VASA will not be opened any sooner

than the FAFSA as it is intended to mimic the FAFSA

- Lyons encourages all board members to consider running for an executive committee position for 2024
- *Conference Committee: Josh*
 - Early bird registration is open
 - 7 registrants thus far
 - Large group registration instructions are included
 - Request for conference session proposals has been extended for two weeks
 - 30 total slots available for conference sessions
 - 19 proposals collected initially; Josh emailed all previous presenters which helped get to 30 total submitted proposals (representing 23 individuals)
 - Conference will now have tracks (i.e. higher ed tracks, K-12 tracks) in addition to experience level tracks
 - College fair for conference attendees will occur
 - One college has registered thus far
 - The cost is \$100 to solely participate in the fair or \$75 if they are conference attendees
 - The committee hopes that the majority of the state schools will participate
 - Reshaud suggests to create an organizational directory so colleges understand who will be attending and what students they serve
 - Conference prices are \$14,000 - \$20,000 higher than last year (at Hotel Madison); the total bill is around \$70,000 this year
 - Goal is 250 registrants which would provide a revenue of \$75,000
 - Sponsorships
 - Need significant support from the board
 - Sponsorship deck is ready to go and the conference committee is relying on the support of the board
 - Sentara Health, Virginia Tech, and Virginia State University have agreed to sponsor though it stills need to be confirmed
 - Expecting Virginia529 and ECMC to sponsor again
 - Speakers
 - Looking to secure local and state representatives to be keynote speakers for five sessions: conference opening, breakfast and lunch on day 2 and breakfast on day 3
 - A formal request was submitted through the Department of Education for Miesha Challenger to join the conference again, but no word has been received since that initial outreach in January
 - Tim Kaine's office has also been contacted, but it is too early to confirm participation
 - Consider inviting someone to discuss the supreme court ruling about affirmative action
 - 2024 conference
 - RFP process opened for 2024 with hopes of knowing the location by this year's conference
 - 2024 conference should be held in central VA, since it is held in eastern VA this year and in western VA last year; Richmond, Charlottesville, Williamsburg, Fredericksburg are all under

consideration

- *School Counselor Engagement: Alex*
 - The intention is to address knowledge gaps in the field
 - Two initiatives still in motion:
 - Coffee chats held much like an office hour for immediate needs of school counselors and college access providers
 - Two coffee chats have been held so far: (1) Financial aid and (2) postsecondary resources for students who have experienced homelessness or foster care.
 - One additional coffee chat about serving English Language Learner students was considered for this school year, but will need to be revisited in the fall
 - VSCA conference proposal was submitted and Brittany will hear back by the end of June
 - The conference session will include: Mission and Vision, Review of partner programs, Introduction of initiatives (like Coffee Chats, VirginiaCAN Listserv and Conference, VirginiaCAN Conference Sponsorship), and Regional Networking time
- *Linda H. Woodley Scholarship: Erin*
 - 8 nominations this year, which is 2 less than last year
 - Winners will be announced July 1
 - Anne mentions that school years ending earlier may impact scholarship submissions
- **VASA Task Force: Lyons**
 - Met three times since creation of the committee
 - A draft resolution was proposed to be adopted by the board
 - Discussion to include what VirginiaCAN will commit to doing in support of VASA
 - Ted moves to acknowledge and support the work on the VASA task force and that the board vote on the final resolution electronically over the summer; Anne seconds the motion; motion passes unanimously
- **SCHEV Financial Aid Check-In: Lee Andes**
 - Lee shares about the history of the board
 - 40% of FAFSA filers will be Pell eligible; middle income students will be most impacted by FAFSA changes, making many with a \$9,000 EFC and higher no longer eligible for the same kinds of financial aid
- **Open Discussion/New Business: Board**
 - Virginia529 Town Hall Events
 - Ted shares that this summer, Virginia529 will hold five town hall meetings alongside co-hosting organizations across the state to discuss what Virginia529 is doing and should prioritize in the field; lunch will be provided
 - Ted invites all board members to attend and encourages them to invite people to attend with them
 - Virginia529 partnered with a research organization to conduct up to 30 interviews and survey a few hundred people to learn more about the landscape of college access
 - Next spring, Virginia529 will coordinate another RFP

- Erin shares that 1-2-3-GO! Will now be called Level Up! Virginia
 - New website will come in August
 - College Nights, VCAW, and Decision Day will remain the same
 - Super FAFSA Project will now be called FAFSA Next
 - Working with VCCS to add a spring application event
 - Working to launch a pilot in which high schools receive student-level FAFSA data(submitted, completed, and flagged by verification) directly
- Anne shares that NCAN hosting a train the trainer event in DC in July
- TeCarla shares that NASFAA is hosting webinars about the new FAFSA and potentially the recording can be sent around to the VirginiaCAN listserv
- TeCarla shares that VACRAO is hosting Lee Andes for three webinars to discuss domicile basics and VASA
- Laura is partnering with Community Resilience Initiative out of Washington State and they will hold their national conference in Roanoke on July 20-21
- Three months between now and next meeting
- **Meeting adjourned at 4:03**
 - Anne moved to adjourn meeting; Jan seconded the motion; motion passes unanimously

Announcements:

Next Meetings:

Tuesday, September 26th, 2pm -4pm Virtual TBD

Wednesday, November 29th, 9am - 11am, In-Person (VA Beach)

Conference

Founders Inn and Spa: 5641 Indian River Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23464, United States

Wednesday, November 29th - Friday, December 1st

The mission of the Virginia College Access Network is to support and enhance post-secondary education access and attainment for residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia. To accomplish this mission, VCAN will support access programs and foster new initiatives; develop information and financial resources for students and families; and promote the benefits of greater access to postsecondary education.