



Virginia's Voice for Access

Virginia College Access Network Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 26th | 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Virtual

Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85211928585?pwd=dE8rbUxRaDc0OFhvMGVvT213S1c3UT09>

Meeting ID: 852 1192 8585 | Passcode: gKbw0c

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

Guests Present: Juan Espinoza, Christian Howton, Casey Yocum (in lieu of Laura Clark), Grace Khattar

Board Members Absent: Ashley Woodous, Laura Clark

- **Opening Remarks and Roll Call: Lyons**
 - Meeting was called to order at 2:04pm
 - Roll call commenced
- **Approval of June Minutes & Adoption of September Agenda: Lyons**
 - Call for revisions to June meeting minutes and September agenda
 - June meeting minutes moved to be approved by Anne; motion seconded by July; motion passes unanimously
 - September meeting agenda moved to be adopted by Anne; motion seconded by Jan; motion passes unanimously
 - Juan will join the call when he can and may disrupt the order of agenda items
- **Treasurer's Report: Jan**
 - Separate written report provided to all board members
 - \$339.85 from CV will be added to the Linda Woodley Scholarship fund
- **Committee Report Out: Committee Chairs**
 - *Exec Committee: Lyons*
 - **President's Report & Updates**
 - Nomination and voting for executive committee is upcoming
 - Need more speakers for the conference
 - Juan Espinoza to talk about the impact of the Supreme Court decision on admissions
 - Hoping to secure someone from federal financial aid
 - *Conference Committee: Christian*
 - Conference Check-In

- 129 attendees registered, though that does not include group registrations from VCAC, ACCESS, and about half of the school counselor conference sponsorships
- 15 colleges registered for the fair thus far (held November 29th, 4-6pm)
- Committee will meet next week to finalize food and beverage
- Speakers
 - Two big speaker spots open
 - Opening session is still available in which a local college president would be great
 - Closing session on Friday with hopes for a federal update
 - Will be important to finalize so that speakers can be advertised leading up to the conference
- Sponsorship
 - A sponsorship page has been created for the VCAN website and was made live during the meeting; Christian will edit the grid to reflect this year's sponsorship levels
 - Verbal commitments from Virginia529 and other individuals
 - The board is encouraged to identify additional sponsors and point them to the newly live website
- *School Counselor Engagement: Brittany*
 - Initiatives and Updates
 - Sponsorships for upcoming conference
 - Received a good response though not everyone who requested this would be a first-time attendee
 - 19 school counselors have registered with the sponsorship, leaving about 20 sponsorships available
 - Discussion: open the sponsorship to others who may not meet all requirements (including college and career counselors, counselors from schools with less than 50% FRLP eligibility, counselors from trade schools, counselors who are not first-time attendees, etc.)
 - If a counselor from a school with less than 50% FRLP attends, at least one high school in the district would need to have greater than 50% FRLP to remain in compliance with funding requirements
 - TeCarla suggests promoting this at the VSCA conference in a few weeks; TeCarla and Anne will attend and Brittany will provide a flier with QR code
 - Higher level sponsorship levels come with conference registration sponsorships so that can be a way to capture those who do not receive sponsorship through this opportunity
 - Alex offers to consider extending this sponsorship opportunity to school counselors in training
 - After VSCA and November 1, if sponsorships are not filled, eligibility requirements will be revisited
 - [PD opportunities](#) shared with the full board which will be revisited at the next board meeting
- *Linda H. Woodley Scholarship: Erin*

- Lee Andes has processed payments for three of the four recipients; the fourth is experiencing technical difficulties
 - The committee will meet again soon to discuss the process for next year
- **Juan Espinoza on Admissions**
 - The major change seen in admissions after the Supreme Court ruling is students self-selecting out of the admissions process (for instance, some students saying now that race cannot be considered, they are not applying especially to selective schools)
 - Holistic review was always a part of the admissions process (considering upwards of 16 different variables for each student); though race was one of those variables, that still leaves many to consider
 - The admissions review process is not changing much, but there are concerns about the perception that this is happening across the board
 - Virginia Tech has doubled Black and Hispanic student populations in the past four years; also removed early decision and legacy admissions
 - Shaun asks a question about Opportunity Compass
 - Juan also references Landscape from College Board which similarly looks at indicators like household income, crime rate, and others to create an index to represent difficulty of the environment students are coming from
 - Dennis asks a question about fall visitation and whether the Supreme Court ruling impacts recruitment programming like this
 - Juan answers that targeted recruitment and messaging is okay as long as the program is open to everyone
 - Reshaud requests that Juan shares his insight alongside other college admissions professionals about what is next regarding Supreme Court ruling at the conference
- **Legislative Updates: Grace**
 - Grace works in finance policy and government relations at SCHEV
 - Overview of last session
 - General Assembly did not pass the budget for Virginia529; a working group is being developed to provide recommendations
 - Interim report should be out before January 10th with a full report available later next year
 - Looking ahead to next session
 - GRASP is launching a level up program to help students better understand college applications and college choice; funding will be requested for this at the next session
 - Also looking to expand college advising
 - SCHEV invited the Attorney General to speak with public college presidents
 - Attorney General endorsed removal of legacy admissions without legal action
 - Reshaud asks a question about legacy admissions and if it is only for Tier I and Tier II institutions in Virginia
 - Grace shared that this would apply to all public institutions, though this most directly impacts schools like UVA, Virginia Tech, and William and Mary. William and Mary has not removed legacy admissions nor made a comment yet.
 - Grace shares her contact information for board members:
 - gracekhattar@schev.edu
- **VASA Task Force: Lyons**

- Vote to formally adopt VASA resolution
 - Ted moves to formally adopt the resolution as presented; Anne seconds the motion; motion unanimously passes
- The resolution will be posted on the website
- **Virginia529 Listening Sessions: Ted**
 - Five town hall meetings held across Virginia (in Richmond, Fairfax, Chesapeake, Weyers Cave, and Abingdon)
 - 115 total attendees representing 55 organizations
 - Held an additional session with the Virginia Workforce Center Directors to understand the challenges adults reentering the workforce are experiencing and support that could be beneficial
 - Ted thanks board members for attending
 - Virginia529 is working on multiple research projects related to college access; these town halls are a part of those projects
 - 24 subject matter experts were interviewed as well
 - 529 in Illinois and Pennsylvania were also interviewed
 - 400 families were randomly selected and surveyed
 - They are preparing a final report for next week and a white paper will be shared after board approval
 - Town Hall emergent themes:
 - Need is as great as it has ever been
 - Scholarships, workforce development, and mentoring & coaching are on target
 - Support needs for traditional and non-traditional aged students
 - Wrap-around services are necessary and lack enough funding
 - Coaching for adults with minimal work experience after entering the workforce
 - Mentoring before and during college for all students
 - Start the discussion sooner (reach down to middle school students and parents)
 - Develop and maintain a database of access services, scholarship and grant opportunities
 - Statewide coordination of access and other similar programs
- **Nominations for Executive Committee: TeCarla**
 - All positions will be elected
 - There will be a discussion with Anne about whether to keep all positions one year or make them two-year commitments
 - Scott brings up that the process to change the by-laws can take a lot of time and proposes keeping the positions as one-year commitments for this election cycle and revisiting this next year
 - Will proceed with executive committee nominations between board meetings so that new positions can be finalized at the next board meeting
 - Executive committee will meet again in two weeks
- **Open Discussion/New Business: Board**
 - Shaun shares that the best information he has is that the FAFSA will be released in late December
 - GRASP created a speakers bureau where they host free speakers on different topics who train their advisers; if anyone would like a free speaker please ask Anne
 - Alex shared that another job postings list will be circulated to VCAN listserv next

- week; requested that job postings be emailed by EOD Friday, September 29th
- Erin shares about a budget recommendation that SCHEV is proposing for \$750k for the first year and 1.5 million for the following year; an RFP will be released for college access organizations to request funding to expand their organizations
- Erin shares that the LevelUp Virginia website will be live next week, including a college access provider directory; a press release will be shared
- SCHEV is working with a pilot group of seven high schools to receive student-level FAFSA data in order to identify how to share this information securely; hopes to open this statewide next year
- TeCarla shared that ODU's merge with Eastern Virginia Medical School was approved which will be the largest comprehensive merge in the commonwealth; the merge should be active January 1, 2024
- Erin shares that 110 high schools are registered thus far for VCAW; 20+ colleges are signed up
- **Meeting adjourned at 3:46pm**
 - Anne moved to adjourn meeting; Ted seconded the motion; motion passes unanimously

Announcements:

Next Meetings:

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

January/February Meeting, date TBD, 2-4pm

Conference

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

Wednesday, November 29th - Friday, December 1st

[Registration](#) | [Sponsorship Form](#)

[Website](#) | [Sponsorship Page](#) (Active 9/26)

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.