




OLD DOMINION
UNIVERSITY



**Regional
Higher Education
Centers**

2016-2017

Annual Report

Old Dominion University's Regional Higher Education Centers serve as local gateways to the University, providing:

- Accessible, high quality education in three convenient locations – Peninsula, Tri-Cities and Virginia Beach.
- Select graduate and undergraduate degrees, certificates and continuing education programs offered in traditional, web-based and hybrid formats.
- State-of-the-art academic facilities that offer resources to foster success and accelerate degree completion, especially among commuter, transfer and adult students who navigate our transportation-challenged area.
- Conference, training and professional development space for academic departments, local school divisions, municipalities, businesses and nonprofits.

ODU Peninsula Center



ODU Virginia Beach Center



ODU Tri-Cities Center



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Keeping pace with constant change

Regionalism is a word we hear a lot in Hampton Roads. Individuals and groups are working hard to solve problems not contained by borders: transportation, recurrent flooding, training and education for high-demand fields and cyber terrorism, to name just a few. This annual report highlights work and programs at the Regional Higher Education Centers that are important to our local communities and to our region.

This year marks the fifth year since the graduate program in nurse anesthesia moved to ODU Virginia Beach. This anniversary is a great opportunity to highlight this program's growth and importance to Virginia Beach's growing Bio Corridor.

Over the last eight months, ODU's Regional Higher Education Centers have played a key role in developing HRCyber, a partnership aimed at stimulating cybersecurity education and workforce

development. I am happy that our own John Costanzo has served as project manager on this key regional initiative.

In our continued efforts to engage with the community, ODU Peninsula Center hosted an enormously successful Modeling, Simulation & Visualization Engineering (MSVE) recruitment open house. The photos in this report convey the excitement of the event.

We end the report with a photo montage of student and community engagement events from the past academic year.

As we keep pace with constant change in higher education and the world, our regional centers support a quality Monarch experience for students, faculty, staff and their local communities.

Renée Olander, Associate Vice President & Assistant Professor



Beach. The program teaches experienced nurses to administer anesthesia and monitor patients' responses and vital signs during surgery.

Graduates have a near-perfect record on the national certification exam, which they attribute to a demanding curriculum and laser-like attention from faculty members. That connection extends outside the classroom. The program's director, Nate Apatov, Ph.D., invites all students who are away from home to his house for Thanksgiving.

Old Dominion launched the program in 1995. In 2012, at the request of the City of Virginia Beach, the College of Health Sciences made the strategic decision to relocate the program to capitalize on the center's larger space and the budding Princess Anne Commons Bio Corridor.

Cheryl Rutherford moved to Virginia from Oregon with her husband to attend the program. It didn't disappoint her: "I definitely got what I needed. The faculty are incredible. I could call any of them up any time I needed help." She graduated in 2015 and now works for Atlantic Anesthesia, headquartered in

Virginia Beach.

Tayoh Valdez, who will graduate in December, said faculty members are "genuinely invested in your success and getting out and being a good nurse anesthetist and providing safe care."

Ninety-eight percent of ODU's students passed the CRNA national exam in the past four years, compared with an 86 percent national pass rate, Apatov said. All graduates get jobs afterward; some get two or three offers.

Applicants must have bachelor's degrees and experience in critical care nursing. Only 18 were admitted to this year's incoming class, which will be the first to complete a doctorate, requiring a full-time, three-year course of study. Why not enroll more? Old Dominion wants to make sure class size doesn't exceed job demand. Plus, Apatov said, "ODU maintains high standards for admission."

Students in the program train on a "high-fidelity mannequin." "He literally comes to life," Apatov said. "He speaks; his eyes open up. When you give him medication he's allergic to, he swells up." It's connected to a state-of-the-art anesthesia machine, which delivers oxygen and anesthetic gases and monitors vital signs. "They've done a very, very good job of replicating an operating room," Valdez said.

Special Note: A version of this story originally was written for ODU's Monarch Magazine.

NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAM ENTERS ITS FIFTH YEAR AT BEACH

Imagine an academic program so successful that nearly all its graduates pass a rigorous national certification exam – and so close-knit that the students and faculty gather for holiday meals. That's the reality behind Old Dominion University's graduate program in nurse anesthesia, which operates at ODU Virginia

BY THE NUMBERS

18 STUDENTS ADMITTED TO INCOMING CLASS

98% ODU STUDENT PASS RATE ON THE CRNA NATIONAL EXAM THE PAST FOUR YEARS

2012 THE YEAR NURSE ANESTHESIA MOVED TO ODU VIRGINIA BEACH
 MEDIAN U.S. SALARY FOR NURSE ANESTHETISTS **\$157,140**

LEARNING COMMUNITIES LAUNCH AT PENINSULA AND VIRGINIA BEACH

Business students transferring into Old Dominion University now have a new resource to help them navigate their educational path at the university's higher education centers on the Peninsula and in Virginia Beach.

ODU Peninsula launched the BSBA Business Transfer Learning Community in spring 2017 to serve new transfer students pursuing an undergraduate degree in business administration. While participating in this community, students can engage in study groups, career development workshops and networking events with business partners on the Peninsula. They also have access to an assigned, on-site academic advisor and a peer mentor from the Strome College of Business.

This new initiative builds on the success of the ODU Peninsula's ASBA to BSBA cohort, a business transfer program established in partnership with Thomas Nelson Community College to enable a more seamless transition from TNCC to ODU. Patrick Ryan, one of the first students in the ASBA to BSBA cohort, now serves as a transfer peer mentor for the learning community.

"Having been a transfer student myself, I know how important it is to be brought up to speed quickly, and to learn right away about all the resources and opportunities that Old Dominion has to offer," he said. "I was honored to serve ODU transfer business students and work alongside

the wonderful Peninsula Center staff to facilitate student success."

To be part of the community, students must enroll in select 300-level business courses and develop an e-portfolio documenting their curricular and co-curricular learning experiences.

Involvement in the Transfer Business Learning Community on the Peninsula is expected to minimize "transfer shock," and lead to a quicker declaration of the selected business major, according to Dr. Anna Makhorkina, assistant director at ODU Peninsula. The inaugural eight-member learning community includes students who work full time, along with parents and students transitioning from active military service.

ODU Virginia Beach also will pilot two learning communities starting in fall 2017 for transfer and commuter students: Beach Student Learning Community (LC) and the Beach Teacher Learning Community.

The Beach Student LC is open to any student attending classes at ODU Virginia Beach; the two classes paired together for this community are ENGL 114L and PHIL 230E.

The Beach Teacher LC is open to any student interested in the IDS-Teacher Prep program or other teacher certification programs. The two classes paired together for this community are ARTS 305 and STEM 433.



"Having been a transfer student myself, I know how important it is to be brought up to speed quickly, and to learn right away about all the resources and opportunities that Old Dominion has to offer."

- Patrick Ryan, Class of 2017 and current transfer peer mentor.



WORKING TOGETHER Dr. Anna Makhorkina, ODU Peninsula assistant director and business student advisor is working with faculty and students, including transfer peer mentor Patrick Ryan, to make the transfer process more seamless for students.

ENGINEERING OPEN HOUSE DELIVERS HANDS-ON INSIGHT ON CAREER PATHS

Nearly 200 high school students, faculty and advisors came together at the ODU Peninsula Center this spring for a comprehensive look at just how much ODU offers in a dynamic – and growing – field of engineering.

On March 16, the ODU Peninsula Center hosted a Modeling, Simulation & Visualization Engineering (MSVE) Open House and Recruitment Event in collaboration with ODU's MSVE department and the Virginia Space Grant Consortium.

The event targeted high school juniors and seniors with aspirations to work in the field. It attracted 177 students, parents, STEM instructors and advisors from six Peninsula school districts, private academies, local community colleges, technical schools and apprentice programs. Throughout the open house, participants had the chance to talk in detail with ODU MSVE faculty and staff, graduate and Ph.D. students, admissions officers, career and academic advisors, and financial aid services.

"The success of the event points to growing interest in the field among area schools," said Nakia Madry-Smith, director of the Peninsula Center. It also underscores the important collaborative role ODU plays in local communities through its higher education centers and their ability to facilitate hands-on information-sharing and educational opportunities.

"The principals, directors, and career and technical advisor representatives we reached out to about the event responded with great enthusiasm," she

"Students were enthusiastic about the information and getting the hands-on time to interact took the trip to another level."

-Aaron Smith, Ph.D., program director, Denbigh Aviation Academy

said. "To have an event of this nature being offered in a location convenient to their students was a big advantage, and a reason for the great turnout."

Participants toured six MSVE exhibits and then had the opportunity to interact with cutting-edge technologies including the Microsoft HoloLens, VIVE, Z Space, Oculus Rift with Gesture Recognition, and the VR Hood. The Virginia Space Grant Consortium also hosted rotating sessions on drones and presented opportunities for paid student internships in STEM-related interests.

Rick McKenzie, Ph.D., professor and chair of ODU's modeling, simulation and visualization engineering department, called the open house first-rate in its ability to attract potential students and foster new connections.

"We were reaching the audiences we really wanted to share our modeling and simulation engineering programs with," he said. "We couldn't be happier."

Dr. Rick McKenzie, Chair of Modeling, Simulation & Visualization Engineering, shows a student the Oculus Rift during the ODU Peninsula MSVE Open House.





99% SATISFIED LEARNERS

The number of Peninsula Center Open House attendees who felt more knowledgeable about educational and career pathways in MSVE after attending the event, according to a post-event survey.



RECRUITING WITH TECHNOLOGY Top, juniors and seniors from six Peninsula school districts enter ODU Peninsula for the recruitment event.

Above left, Dr. Jim Leathrum, associate professor in the MSVE department introduces students to MSVE, its practical applications and career paths.

Above right, Dr. Scott Bellows, technology programs coordinator for the Virginia Space Grant Consortium leads a session featuring drone technology demonstrations, and internship and career opportunities in STEM.

Far right, Dr. Mohammad Obeid, guides a student through an Oculus Rift virtual reality experience. Students also interacted with the Microsoft HoloLens, VIVE and Z Space.

CYBERSECURITY GRANT CONNECTS HAMPTON ROADS COMMUNITIES



CYBER SECURE Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe applauds as Presidents John R. Broderick, ODU, and Edna Baehre-Kolovani, TCC, display cybersecurity articulation agreements at the signing ceremony in Richmond. "We have 36,000 jobs open in cyber," McAuliffe said. "Students get that degree, and I can hire every single person who comes out of Old Dominion University."

director for student enrollment at ODU Virginia Beach.

Costanzo and ODU Regional Higher Education Centers have played a lead role in moving this new initiative forward. In fact, ODU Virginia Beach hosted the alliance's kickoff planning meeting on June 1, 2016, and the Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC), headquartered at ODU Peninsula, has become a key partner.

And the partnership continues to grow: VSGC recently produced a series of videos highlighting local cybersecurity employers and employees, hosted two Cyber Saturday events for high school students and their parents showcasing cybersecurity tasks and career opportunities, and coordinated the cybersecurity internship program by working with local employers and potential interns through the Commonwealth STEM Industry Internship Program.

Indeed, since its establishment, the number of partners associated with HRCyber has increased from 16 to over 40 institutions. Additionally, two articulation agreements were approved between Tidewater Community College and Thomas Nelson Community College with Old Dominion University. Those agreements create a clear pathway for students who wish to transfer an associate in applied science degree in information systems technology to the interdisciplinary studies-cybersecurity bachelor of science program at ODU.



ODU President John R. Broderick (left) and TNCC President John Dever.

ODU's Regional Higher Education Centers have played a key role over the last eight months in developing the next-generation workforce for critical security issues affecting government, industry and private citizens.

In October 2016, the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) awarded ODU a grant to establish the Hampton Roads Cybersecurity Education, Workforce and Economic Development Alliance (HRCyber), one of five multi-stakeholder partnerships aimed at stimulating cybersecurity education and workforce development.

"HRCyber's primary objective is to align regional educational and skills development offerings to the workforce practices and activities of cybersecurity related businesses within Hampton Roads with the specific goal of supporting local economic development and job growth," said John Costanzo, the group's project manager and associate



CYBER SIGHTS John Costanzo, associate director for student enrollment at ODU Virginia Beach, has taken on an additional role as project manager for the HRCyber Initiative.

JOHN COSTANZO OPENING THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION

As the associate director for student enrollment at ODU Virginia Beach, John Costanzo draws a straight line between his 26-year Army career and his role as an advisor at ODU. "Students, like soldiers, want to be successful," he said. "It is the advisor's job to help students set and achieve their goals."

Recently, Costanzo expanded his role within ODU after earning his project management professional certification, a globally recognized designation that made him an ideal candidate to be project manager for the HRCyber Initiative. That effort is a collaborative partnership among educational institutions, businesses, nonprofit organizations and government agencies that focuses on developing pathways for students that ultimately lead to careers in cybersecurity.

Costanzo said he's excited for the new challenge and for what the initiative can ultimately accomplish around the region.

"There is a very high demand for cybersecurity professionals and the demand is exceeding the supply of qualified applicants in our region," he explained. "The HRCyber Initiative has opened the lines of communication between various institutions and agencies. All of the partners on this project are working together to get qualified people employed in the field of cybersecurity."

**CYBERSECURITY
WORKFORCE
DEMAND**

\$88,000

AVERAGE
STARTING
SALARY

36,000 OPEN CYBERSECURITY
JOBS IN VIRGINIA

OPEN CYBERSECURITY
JOBS IN HAMPTON ROADS **3,100**

FACULTY PROFILE: RACHEL CROCKETT 'SOMEONE IS HEARING WHAT YOU'RE SAYING'



Rachel Crockett is a professional who wears many hats – and she’s just fine with that. As an AV systems engineer she is responsible for the smooth operation of technology-delivered classes at ODU Virginia Beach and as an adjunct professor in women’s studies, she teaches courses on the main campus and in Virginia Beach. She recently shared her thoughts on how she found her own path, what she’s learned about students and why she is happy seeing her own life as something of a “hybrid.”

You are an audiovisual system engineer, adjunct professor and filmmaker. How does each role inform the others?

They’re all very connected. My film work and music come about when there’s something I believe needs to be said; audio and video are my skill set. Was it Aristotle who said something about the needs of the world and your talents coming together? That’s what I always hope for.

What has been the most challenging aspect of managing your professional roles with Old Dominion University and your outside interests?

Once I began to craft a path of study in humanities, a mentor said to me that I would end up being some sort of hybrid. I’m comfortable with that now, but it takes conscious time-energy management to make it work in a healthy way. I heard a wise woman say recently that you can have it all, but perhaps not all at once.

How has the Certified Technology Specialist (CTS) certification helped you as a systems engineer and as a film producer?

Preparing [for the certification] was really the most valuable part of the experience. It was a way for me to unify my experiences and training, but



also to reflect on my work. It gave me some reassurance that I’d chosen the right path. CTS holders also have a supportive community, so my network has expanded and become more diverse.

You’re an audiovisual engineer with a master’s degree in humanities and a graduate certificate in women’s studies. Do you think that multidisciplinary background has shaped your career or professional life?

The thing about us hybrid folk is we have more than one toolbox to pull from. So, I don’t tend to be compartmentalized in my thinking.

As a student, what or who was the most integral part of your success?

The humanities program allowed me the freedom to craft my path and create some focus. I took a couple of trips to South Africa with the women’s studies department. Those experiences in particular were the beginning of the “skills and needs of the world” connection for me. It also completely altered my own feminism.

What have you learned as a faculty member?

That students listen. That someone in that room is hearing what you’re saying and making a decision that is different from what she would have made before. That’s a lot of responsibility and a great opportunity. I take it very seriously.

DEXTER WARREN

ILR SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNER

How can a single father manage a full-time career while earning a master's degree?

For **Dexter Warren**, the answer to that question came in the form of ODU's Tri-Cities Center and ODU Online.

For more than two years, Warren woke every morning at 6:30 a.m. to get his 6-year-old daughter ready for school and then drive 40 minutes from his home in Portsmouth to his job as a physical education teacher in Isle of Wight. Twice a week, he went to the Tri-Cities Center after work, where he participated via video conference in two classes back-to-back until 10 p.m.

In May 2017, Warren's hard work paid off when he received a master's degree in educational leadership, a major milestone he attributes at least in part to the Tri-Cities Center's convenient location and an important scholarship he earned in the fall of 2016 to further his studies.

"I knew that to have a brighter future, I had to continue my educational journey," Warren explained. "One of my biggest procrastinations of starting a post-graduate degree was not wanting to have a lot of debt."

That's why receiving the Old Dominion University Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) 2016 Scholarship

was so powerful for Warren. The scholarship supports graduate study at ODU for an eligible Hampton Roads resident with an award of up to \$4,000 per year of tuition assistance for up to two academic years.

The ILR is an educational member organization sponsored by Old Dominion University, and headquartered at ODU Virginia Beach.

The ILR selection committee was impressed by Warren's work ethic, community service, determination and maturity in pursuing his educational goals. In addition to his work, family and school commitments, he has played volunteer leadership roles at church and his daughter's school and has coordinated food drives and community events that encourage other adults to become more active in kids' lives.

Looking back on his ODU path, Warren said he feels gratitude – and pride.

"The scholarship has helped me financially more than anything, but also, psychologically, knowing that I earned a highly competitive scholarship against other master's and doctoral

A BRIGHTER FUTURE "Knowing that I earned a highly competitive scholarship against other master's and doctoral students gives me that extra drive to want to do better," says Dexter Warren, winner of the Old Dominion University Institute for Learning in Retirement 2016 Scholarship.

students gives me that extra drive to want to do better," he said.

Next up for Warren? A little rest, he said, and then, back to work.

"I am going to take a few trips and spend more time with my daughter," he said, before promising, "When the time is right, I will pursue my doctorate degree."



ENGAGING WITH STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY

WORKING TOGETHER ➤

In partnership with ODU, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) officially opened its Region Five office at the ODU Tri-Cities Center in Portsmouth on October 28, 2016.

Dr. Jeff Stern, the state coordinator, said the new office will improve and enhance VDEM's on-the-ground presence, and their ability to work with state agencies and local governments responding to emergencies and disasters.



SUFFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS ART SHOW ➤

King's Fork High School art instructor Stephanie Gwaltney with her students Amber Abernethy (left) and Lydia Martin (right) at the Fall 2016 Suffolk Public Schools Art Show at ODU Tri-Cities.

WELCOME WEEK

Students gather at ODU Virginia Beach for fellowship and free food during the fall 2016 first week of school.



EXAM JAM

About 100 students, faculty and staff gathered in the ODU Virginia Beach atrium for the Spring 2017 Exam Jam.



IN THE NEWS

Renée Olander wins J. Worth Pickering Administrator of the Year Award

On April 25, Renée Olander received the Association of University Administrators (AUA) J. Worth Pickering Administrator of the Year Award. The award recognizes administrative and professional faculty for an overall body of work that displays extraordinary service, effectiveness and profes-

sional accomplish-
ment.

"I have met many local and national government officials," said Nate Apatov, director of the nurse anesthesia program. "I hold Renée amongst the very finest of all these leaders."

Provost Austin Agho nominated Olander for the award and presented it to her at the awards presentation.

Olander's ODU career began 31 years ago in the College of Arts and Letters. She started as a teaching assistant before becoming an adjunct professor and then an instructor. In 1996, she became the college's director of academic advising and learning communities. She then worked five years as director of interdisciplinary studies for teacher preparation and five years as director of the Virginia Beach Higher Education Center. In 2010, she took on her current position, associate vice president for ODU's three regional higher education centers.



Poetry Festival Enters Second Year



For the second year in a row, ODU in conjunction with La Maison de la Poesie in Montreal, hosted the Quebecois Poetry Festival at ODU Virginia Beach and on the main campus.

ODU Virginia Beach hosted the Quebecois Poetry Roundtable on Poetic Voices and Exchanges on April 6. It featured award-winning Quebecois writers Carole David, Denise Brassard and Paul Chanel Malenfant, and Americans M.J. Kledzik, Luisa Igloria and Peter Schulman. The poets also held a reading at Batten Arts and Letters on April 5, and visited local high schools to inspire students with love of international poetry.



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