Old Dominion University’s Regional Higher Education Centers serve as bridges to the University, providing:

- **Accessible, high quality education** in three convenient locations — Peninsula, Tri-Cities and Virginia Beach.

- **State-of-the-art academic facilities** that offer resources to support success and accelerate time to degree completion especially among commuter, transfer and adult students who navigate our transportation-challenged area.

- **Select graduate and undergraduate degrees, certificates** and **continuing education programs** offered in **traditional, web-based and hybrid formats**.

- **Conference, training and professional development space** for academic departments, local school divisions, municipalities, businesses and nonprofits.
Whether it’s cybersecurity, health and wellness among our underserved in Virginia Beach, or tackling sea-level rise and climate change, with which I’m involved as chair of the Virginia-Beach-Vision/Greater Norfolk Corp Sea-level Rise task force, the boots-on-the-ground at the Regional Higher Education Centers are engaged in furthering the mission of the university and indeed the collective good of the Hampton Roads region—AKA Coastal Virginia—AKA the Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News Metropolitan Statistical Area.

As you’ll learn in these pages, the Regional Centers’ collaborations and partnerships with numerous regional stakeholders ranging from the City of Virginia Beach Human Services Department to Newport News Shipbuilding work to benefit our current undergraduate and graduate students as well as our diverse and transportation-challenged communities.

Meanwhile at ODU Virginia Beach we continued to support the expansion of the School of Nursing, including an increased class size for the 2019-2020 academic year. In addition we made improvements to student labs and study spaces at ODU Peninsula and ODU Tri-cities, and added a student presentation huddle-space in Virginia Beach.

As you’ll see in photos and the quotations from the high school students who attended our successful STEM Open House at Peninsula, and from the TCC and TNCC academic counselors who participated in our annual appreciation luncheons, the Centers contributed vitally to the university’s regional recruitment and community engagement efforts.

As convenient satellites strategically located where so many of our students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends live and work, the Regional Higher Education Centers enjoyed a remarkably productive year. Please enjoy highlights offered in these pages. Go Monarchs!

Renée Olander
Associate Vice President & Assistant Professor
In Virginia Beach, A New Nursing Facility Points Students to the Future

School of nursing students entered a completely renovated wing of ODU Virginia Beach when they started class in Fall 2018. Gleaming simulators. Innovative, hands on labs. Spacious collaboration rooms. These are some of the highlights of the months-long construction that enabled the school to expand its physical footprint and accommodate an increase in students. Enrollment in the pre-licensure program increased from 64 to 80 students.

Faculty and students have been enthusiastic about the 2200 square feet expansion from the previous facility. And the excitement among students and faculty was palpable.

“The facilities are fantastic,” said Karen Karlowicz, chair of the ODU school of nursing. The increased space and updated equipment allow students to do more simulation and training which is critical for developing their skills. Our long-range plan is to continue increasing the footprint for nursing so we can help meet the critical shortage of healthcare providers.”

“The facilities are fantastic! The increased space and updated equipment allows students to do more simulation and training which is critical for developing their skills. Our long range plan is to continue to increase the footprint for nursing.”

—Karen Karlowicz, chair of the ODU School of Nursing
“We have some of the best technology. The simulators we have are phenomenal. Being able to try out techniques before going into the field has been incredibly helpful.”

—Jackie Holmes, BSN ‘20

The move from the previous facility created an opportunity to update equipment, which in turn leads to more opportunities for students to learn new skills in a dynamic and ever-evolving field.

“We have some of the best technology,” said ODU student Jackie Holmes. “The simulators we have are phenomenal. Having the ability to try out techniques before going into the field has been incredibly helpful.”

ODU student Amanda Stamenkovich loves that students have numerous spaces to collaborate and study including the learning commons. The move has “really improved the nursing student culture. Now it feels like a nursing community.”
From Classroom to Clinical Experience – and Beyond

An agreement signed July 2019 between Old Dominion University and the City of Virginia Beach promises to create new clinical, practicum and internship opportunities for ODU students.

“It creates a pathway direct from ODU to Virginia Beach’s large and well-run human services organization,” said Dr. Jeffry Moe, professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling. In the past, each ODU department would have needed a separate agreement. The single agreement will streamline the placement process and lead to better student experiences.

While ODU students in human services and mental health counseling will benefit immediately, the agreement also addresses other in-demand degree programs in human services, dental hygiene, communication disorders and nurse practitioner.

GOING PLACES The agreement creates clinical, practicum and internship opportunities in facilities like the new Virginia Beach Housing Resource Center, which is a one-stop shop of services for families and individuals experiencing homelessness or a housing crisis.

“It creates a pathway direct from ODU to Virginia Beach’s large and well-run human services organization.”

—Dr. Jeffry Moe, professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling
What happens when more than 60 industry, government and academic institutions come together to drive growth and create opportunities for next-generation talent in high-demand tech sectors of the economy? Jobs, mentorships, innovation — and clear pathways for student and industry success.

For the third year, John Costanzo, associate director at ODU Virginia Beach, built upon his work with colleagues across Old Dominion to help coordinate the Virginia Cyber Alliance, a partnership focused on the creation of internships, outreach and technology assistance in the areas of cybersecurity, data analytics and unmanned autonomous systems (UAS). Since 2016 Costanzo has helped coordinate $1.86 million in state and federal grants.

This year, the program connected local employers with highly qualified students to fill 28 high school internships, 20 college internships and eight full-time positions. Tracy Gregorio ’90, CEO of G2 Ops says her involvement with the alliance has made her more engaged with ODU and has even helped develop new business relationships outside of Virginia. G2 Ops has placed 12 interns through the Virginia Cyber Alliance and has hired seven ODU graduates in the last three years.

“The ODU graduates we’ve hired are productive from day one,” she said. “It’s clear they receive a great education, but equally vital they come to us prepared with important soft skills: professionalism, presentation skills, and communication skills.”

**56:** number of local internships and full-time positions filled through the Virginia Cyber Alliance

**$1.86 million:** Amount of state and federal grants awarded from 2016-2019

“*The ODU graduates we’ve hired are productive from day one. It’s clear they receive a great education, but equally vital they come to us prepared with important soft skills.*”

—Tracy Gregorio ’90, CEO of G2 Ops
STEM open house connects with Peninsula high schools

More than 250 high school students, parents, faculty and advisors came together at the ODU Peninsula Center this spring for a comprehensive look at just how much ODU offers in the dynamic — and growing — fields of STEM.

On March 18th, 2019, the ODU Peninsula Center hosted its third Open House and Recruitment event in collaboration with ODU’s Colleges of Engineering & Technology, Sciences, Arts & Letters, Education and the Virginia Space Grant Consortium.

The event targeted talented high school juniors and seniors with aspirations to work in the field. It attracted 263 students, parents, STEM instructors, professional school counselors, career coaches and advisors from nine peninsula schools, private academies, local community colleges, technical schools and apprentice programs.

Participants had the chance to talk in detail with ODU faculty and staff, graduate and PhD students, admissions officers, career and academic advisors, including representatives from the newly articulated Cybersecurity program and financial aid services. Professional school counselors and advisors also participated in an early morning breakfast session with ODU leadership and staff from the Virginia Space Grant Consortium to network, share best practices and provide updates to programs and policies affecting prospective students.

“The technology on display was mind-blowing. It was great that almost all presentations were interactive and engaging.”

—Quote from Student Survey

FUN TECH Participants toured 10 STEM exhibits and information sessions which included the opportunity to interact with cutting-edge technologies including the Microsoft HoloLens, VIVE, Z Space, Oculus Rift with Gesture Recognition, the VR Hood and various Robotics demos. In addition, the Virginia Space Grant Consortium hosted rotating sessions on drones and presented opportunities for paid student internships in STEM-related interests. New to the roster this year was an enhanced presentation on robotics and automation featuring NAO, a humanoid robot.
"I found it very valuable to present to and speak with the high school counselors. They asked many questions and seemed pleasantly surprised at how ODU students thrive and are sought after by industry during and after completion of their Modeling and Simulation Engineering degree."

—Dr. Rick McKenzie, chair of ODU Computational Modeling and Simulation Engineering

263: Number of students and guests at the Open House

10: Number of STEM exhibits and information sessions
POETRY READING  Students and community members engage in a poetry reading by Oregon-based Cecilia Hagen during the 41st Annual ODU Literary Festival. The program was hosted at ODU Virginia Beach and streamed live to ODU Peninsula, ODU Tri-Cities and online.

TALKING ABOUT RACE  Associate Vice President Renée Olander, City of Virginia Beach Councilwoman Sabrina Wooten and other faculty, staff and community members participate in a panel discussion about Citizen: An American Lyric as part of the 2019 National Endowment for the Arts Big Read on February 14, 2019. The moderated conversation was hosted at ODU Virginia Beach with satellite locations at ODU Peninsula, ODU Tri-Cities and ODU’s main campus. Panelists included Dr. Janice Underwood, Remica Bingham-Risher and Kelly Morse.
PLANNING AHEAD
Students meet with ODU staff at a Transfer Tuesday event at ODU Peninsula.

HIGH NOTES
Adrian Atwood, aka Young Halflinton, and Richard Riggs sing at the Fall 2018 Exam Jam. Nearly 100 students, faculty and staff took part at ODU Virginia Beach.

ENGINEERS ON THE RISE
The fourth cohort of the Professional Development Program, a partnership between The Apprentice School of Newport News Shipbuilding and ODU, gathers for a reception at ODU Tri-Cities on May 15, 2019. The students earned engineering degrees from Old Dominion. The program has garnered national attention for its fusion of the hands-on nature of The Apprentice School and the academic rigor of the University’s engineering program. 41 students have graduated since the program began in 2015.
BY THE NUMBERS

In 2018-2019, the three centers collectively supported 565 Trainings, Workshops and Community Engagement events which were attended by 17,635 people.

1,432 Exams administered

Transfer Center staff engaged in over 3,100 student contacts to advise current and prospective students.

19 visits to community colleges for recruitment and academic advising.

SURVEY DATA
Top three reasons graduate and undergraduate students visit an ODU Regional Higher Education Center:

- To attend a scheduled class with an in-person instructor
- To attend a scheduled class with a web-connected instructor
- For study space

Source: Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Assessment 2019 Survey

Did you know?

2,346 ODU students list an address of record on the Peninsula

144 ODU faculty list an address of record on the Peninsula
SENIOR NIGHT  High school students from the Visual and Performing Arts Academy (VPAA) in Virginia Beach gathered at ODU Virginia Beach on March 18. The center hosted the closing reception of the VPAA Senior Thesis Exhibition. The show was created, curated and installed by students enrolled in the highly selective program and represents the culmination of their visual arts study.
Breaking Bread: 
Luncheon Tradition Strengthens Community College Partnerships

Each year the regional centers host appreciation luncheons for the academic advisers and counselors of our closest community college partners, Tidewater Community College (TCC) and Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC). ODU Peninsula celebrated its 5th annual luncheon, while June marked the 8th year at ODU Tri-Cities and 14th annual event at ODU Virginia Beach.

“The events were a great opportunity to share information about programs and nurture the relationships that facilitate seamless transitions for students onboarding to ODU from our valued community college partners,” said Renee Olander, associate vice president of regional higher education centers.

Among the highlights from the event:
• 24 counselors and advisers from both TNCC campuses — Hampton and Historic Triangle in Williamsburg — attended the 2019 appreciation luncheon.
• 29 counselors from all four TCC campuses — Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach — attended the 2019 appreciation luncheons.

• More than 20 representatives from various ODU offices participated in the 2019 luncheons, hailing from:
  o Advising and Transfer Programs
  o Admissions
  o Distance Learning
  o Financial Aid
  o College of Arts and Letters
  o College of Health Sciences
  o Strome College of Business
  o Military Connection Center
  o Teacher Education Services, Darden College of Education

“I always have an amazing time, learn so much and enjoy great food when I visit ODU for the annual appreciation luncheons. Thank you for hosting us and making us feel so welcome.”

—Rhonda Goudy, transfer counselor, TCC Chesapeake

Our Local Community Colleges

TCC is the second-largest community college in Virginia with 31,098 students

Thomas Nelson ranks fourth with 11,588 students

(2018-2019 Annual Unduplicated Headcount, data from VCCS)

GROUP GATHERING Staff from ODU and Tidewater Community College gather for a luncheon at ODU Virginia Beach.

IDEA EXCHANGE Dr. Anna Makhorkina, assistant director at ODU Peninsula talks with TCC counselors and ODU staff.
Regional Higher Education Centers
odu.edu/regionalcenters

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