



**Report on the Response of
Southside Virginia Community College
to the Impact of the Aging of Virginia's Population**

Submitted: December 19, 2014



**SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Signature page

Pursuant to Code of Virginia §§ 2.2-5510 and 51.5-136, Southside Virginia Community College submits this report of its progress in addressing the impact of the aging of Virginia's population. This page should be signed by the agency head and include the submission date. Digital signatures should be used if possible. The signature page also must include the name, title, and phone and email contact information for the designated agency official responsible for reviewing policy and programs and accommodating the interests of older adults and adults with disabilities under Code of Virginia § 2.2-604.1.

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Dr. Al Roberts, President of Southside Virginia Community College

Submitted on: December 19, 2014

Executive Summary

Seniors at Southside Virginia Community College take advantage of credit and non-credit learning opportunities. Seniors take advantage of SsVCC's "community offering" non-credit classes such as Digital Photography, guitar lessons, Just Once Piano, Yoga, and fitness classes. Annually, SsVCC serves approximately 152 senior students (ages 60 plus) in our credit courses and 387 senior students in our non-credit courses and workshops.

Southside Virginia Community College assists Virginians ages 60 and up to apply for and utilize the Senior Citizens Tuition Assistance option. From Spring 2010 to Fall 2014, 120 distinct students received Senior Citizens Tuition Assistance. During that time period, qualified senior students saved \$107,309.50 in tuition and fees.

Recommendation:

DARS can assist colleges in the VCCS by offering expedited, comprehensive evaluations to students who qualify for their services and may have learning disabilities. Current VCCS policy requires adequate documentation from students who self-identify and request accommodations. Many of SsVCC's older students who have disabilities were not flagged in K-12. Prior to 1975, public schools were not required to identify students with special needs. These students did not have access to IEP services or the least restrictive environment and may not have been offered a "free and appropriate" public education. SsVCC students with learning disabilities who graduated from high school in the early 1970's (or before) more than likely do not have acceptable documentation to warrant accommodations on the post-secondary level.

Southside Virginia Community College's Description

Statement of the Agency Mission:

Southside Virginia Community College is dedicated to the belief that all citizens should be given an opportunity to acquire an educational foundation that develops and extends their skills and knowledge. The college's goal is to provide diverse instructional programs ranging from developmental studies to associate degree curricula in academic, technical / vocational, lifelong education, and workforce development. Through various activities, to include distance learning, students will also have the opportunity to develop their roles and responsibilities as participants in a changing society.

Agency Roles, Background, and History:

Southside Virginia Community College (SsVCC) is a two-year institution of higher education established as a part of the Virginia Community College System created by the 1966 Virginia General Assembly. Southside Virginia Community College opened in 1970, and received its first accreditation from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1972 and its last re-affirmation was in 2007. Admissions are open except for certain Allied Health Curricula such as Nursing. In 2012-13, the College served over 8,600 students within a ten county service region, an area of approximately 4,200 square miles. SsVCC has two main campuses—the John H. Daniel Campus in Keysville, VA and the Christanna Campus in Alberta, VA. In addition, it offers classes at a variety of satellite sites. According to its mission statement Southside Virginia Community College is dedicated to the belief that all citizens should be given an opportunity to acquire an educational foundation that develops and extends their skills and knowledge. The College's goal is to provide diverse instructional programs ranging from developmental studies to associate degree curricula in academic, technical / vocational, lifelong education, and workforce development. Through various activities, to include distance learning, students will also have the opportunity to develop their roles and responsibilities as participants in a changing society. SsVCC operates under the guidance of a local board that was established in July 1969.

SsVCC primarily serves the residents of the counties of Brunswick, Buckingham (partial), Charlotte, Cumberland, Greensville, Halifax (partial), Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward as well as the city of Emporia. The College is primarily financed by tuition revenues and state funds; its operating budget is also supplemented by contributions from the participating localities and federal funds.

The College offers programs of study leading toward Associate in Arts & Science and Associate in Applied Science degrees as well as certificate programs and career studies certificates. The Fall 2012 enrollment report showed an enrollment of 6,042 students generating 3,433 FTEs with 63% females, 37% males, 58% white, 39% African Americans, 1% Hispanics, and 2% other. For Fall and Spring of 2012, the College employed 77 full-time faculty and generated an average class size of 16.4. Fifty-six percent of the students were served by adjunct faculty during the fall and spring terms due to the large Dual Enrollment program which produces 28% of the College's FTEs.

Information Requested

1. If your agency has undertaken any actions to respond to the current and future impact of an aging population, such as needs assessments, strategic planning, or use of best practices, please briefly describe those actions. Please indicate what assistance from DARS could help your agency as it prepares to serve an aging Virginia population.

SsVCC applied for a Plus 50 Encore grant from the American Association of Community Colleges in 2012. In 2013, SsVCC's Plus 50 Encore coordinator mailed a brief survey assessing the college's services to all 50 plus students. As a part of that survey, senior students were asked if they were willing to participate in a 50 Plus Advisory Committee for the college. Five senior students attended the first advisory committee meeting on April 9, 2014. The group discussed how to improve SsVCC's services for older students. These minutes, recommendations, and action steps were shared with President's Staff in late April 2014.

On November 25, 2014, SsVCC hosted a Plus 50 workshop and brought in a guest facilitator, Dr. Terry Portis, from Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Maryland. Dr. Portis gave a presentation on how to help older students be successful in college.

In addition, SsVCC faculty and counselors utilize an early alert system called SAILS. It enables faculty and counselors to identify students who are struggling or who may have a learning difference. Student Development instructors are required to teach Learning Styles to students. This concept can be very beneficial to our non-traditional students. Although these two strategies may not be best practices that exclusively target needs of aging students, the college's older students certainly benefit from them.

2. Briefly describe your agency's services that are used primarily by older Virginians and the funding streams (types and amounts) that support those services. If these particular services or funding streams are provided in conjunction with other state or local agencies or other for profit or non-profit organizations, please list them.

Like all community colleges in Virginia, Southside Virginia Community College assists Virginians ages 60 and up to apply for and utilize the Senior Citizens Tuition Assistance option. From Spring 2010 to Fall 2014, 120 distinct students received Senior Citizens Tuition Assistance. During that time period, qualified senior students using the program saved \$107,309.50 in tuition and fees. In addition, SsVCC also has had a few incarcerated students take advantage of the senior citizen waiver program at its Campus Within Walls program located at Lunenburg Correctional Center.

Seniors take advantage of SsVCC's "community offering" non-credit classes such as Digital Photography, guitar lessons, Just Once Piano, Yoga, and fitness classes. SsVCC also offers the following non-credit workshops which typically attract senior citizens:

Beginning computer
Investing for retirement
Driver improvement
Health topics (like Diabetes Management)
Intro to Word
Boating Safety
CPR training

These classes and workshops are funded through student tuition as well as SsVCC's Workforce Centers. The Plus 50 Encore program is funded by the American Association of Community Colleges. It is a three-year program, providing \$15,000.

3. Identify current agency programs specifically designed to serve older Virginians that fall into any of the following eight categories:

- *Health Care/Wellness—Yes, SsVCC offers credit and non-credit fitness and health classes that many seniors enjoy including Zumba and yoga. In addition, there are classes offered in health topics (like Diabetes Management and CPR training).*
- *Education—Yes, SsVCC offers credit and non-credit course offerings.*
- *Public Safety (including Adult Abuse Prevention)—Yes, SsVCC offers non-credit classes in Boating Safety, CPR training, and Driver Improvement.*
- *Recreation—Yes, SsVCC offers non-credit classes and workshops for fun. These include: Digital Photography, Just Once Piano, and guitar lessons.*
- *Housing*
- *Accessibility (including Livable Communities <http://www.vadrs.org/vblc/>)*
- *Financial Security—Yes, SsVCC offers non-credit classes like Investing for Retirement.*
- *Transportation*

4. Is your agency able to meet all of the service demands of older Virginians for the services listed above? If there are any instances where the demand for services exceeds your agency's ability to meet the demand, please indicate the service and the extent of the unmet demand. Also, if your agency maintains waiting lists for services, please provide this information, including the waiting list numbers for each service.

Generally speaking, SsVCC is currently able to meet the needs of aging students. The College is working to improve quality and efficiency of services offered to our older students through the Plus 50 Encore program.

5. Provide the number of persons, by gender if available, who received services from the agency in each of the past five state fiscal years (FY 2010 through FY2014) who fell into the following age ranges: 60-64; 65-74; 75-84; and 85 and older. If your agency lacks specific information about the numbers of older Virginians it serves but has other evidence indicating that it is serving more or fewer older Virginians than it has in the past, please describe the basis for that estimation.

Below are the numbers of students SsVCC served who were 60 years old and older and enrolled in credit classes.

CREDIT COURSES TAKEN BY STUDENTS 60 PLUS

FY	AGE CATEGORY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
2010	60-64	72	40	112
	65-74	15	9	24
	75-84	6	1	7
	85+	1	0	1
	TOTAL	94	50	144

FY	AGE CATEGORY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
2011	60-64	69	41	110
	65-74	43	29	72
	75-84	9	2	11
	85+	1	0	1
	TOTAL	122	72	194

FY	AGE CATEGORY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
2012	60-64	58	42	100
	65-74	35	19	54
	75-84	7	2	9
	85+	1	1	2
	TOTAL	101	64	165

FY	AGE CATEGORY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
2013	60-64	54	26	80
	65-74	27	22	49
	75-84	3	2	5
	85+	1	1	2
	TOTAL	85	51	136

FY	AGE CATEGORY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
2014	60-64	59	22	81
	65-74	19	15	34
	75-84	2	1	3
	85+	1	0	1
	TOTAL	81	38	119

Below are the numbers of students SsVCC served who were 60 years old and older and enrolled in non-credit classes.

NON-CREDIT COURSES TAKEN BY STUDENTS 60 PLUS 2010-14

FY	AGE CATEGORY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
2010	60-64	41	42	83
	65-74	53	37	90
	75-84	13	7	20
	85+	1	0	1
	TOTAL	108	86	194

FY	AGE CATEGORY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
2011	60-64	65	60	125
	65-74	81	62	143
	75-84	24	14	38
	85+	0	0	0
	TOTAL	170	136	306

FY	AGE CATEGORY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
2012	60-64	139	59	198
	65-74	123	55	178
	75-84	38	19	57
	85+	1	0	1
	TOTAL	301	133	434

FY	AGE CATEGORY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
2013	60-64	145	98	243
	65-74	140	72	212
	75-84	24	22	48
	85+	4	1	5
	TOTAL	313	193	508

FY	AGE CATEGORY	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
2014	60-64	131	59	190
	65-74	161	66	227
	75-84	42	26	69
	85+	7	1	8
	TOTAL	341	152	494

6. Referring to the services or funding you described in item two, describe any services or funding provided to older Virginians for which the accessibility or availability varies considerably in different parts of the Commonwealth.

SsVCC offers a variety of non-credit and credit classes and workshops throughout its 10-county service area. Course availability depends on instructor availability as well as student interest. A minimum number of students must be enrolled for courses to make.

7. Over the next five to 10 years, in what ways do you anticipate that an aging population will impact your agency's services, funding streams, or policies? Consider the impact from an increase in the number of older Virginians and whether the needs of older Virginians will differ from those of today's older adults. Please include any anticipated impacts upon the cost of services, changes in type of services or the manner of service delivery, or modifications to agency policies, staffing needs, or procedures.

SsVCC's ADA Coordinator anticipates that there will be an increase in enrollment of older students who have learning disabilities. As schools were not required to identify students with special needs prior to 1975, many older students were not flagged in K-12. As a result, by the time these students enroll in college, they will have had limited access to services and will have had little to no educational evaluations and intervention. It is vital that we have the resources necessary to work with this population. A surge in the number of students who identify as having a disability will lead to an increased demand for accommodative services, including comprehensive assistive technology. This demand will require substantial increased funding in the area of disability services. SsVCC also anticipates an increase in enrollment among the aging population, regardless of disability status. Many older students are seeking new training opportunities as they attempt to supplement income and pay for rising retirement costs, particularly health care.

SsVCC also expects that more and more will be taking both credit and non-credit classes for recreation and personal satisfaction. As these enrollment numbers increase, particularly for credit classes, there is a potential for loss of revenue. The VCCS allows for fees to be waived also except for class material fees, so the College will need to review the impact of this as well. In some cases, we may need to make classroom accommodations such as allowing seniors more time to take a test or to sit up front for better hearing.

In addition, increasing numbers of aging Virginians also should guarantee continued strong interest in SsVCC's health care programs, particularly Nurse Aide and Nursing programs. As Virginians continue to get older, jobs for SsVCC graduates of these programs will remain plentiful.

8. Please describe the primary steps that should be taken at the federal, state, or local levels to meet the future demands of older Virginians and to make services delivery more effective and efficient.

One way that DARS can assist colleges in the VCCS is to offer expedited, comprehensive evaluations to students who qualify for their services who may have learning disabilities. Current VCCS policy requires adequate documentation from students who self-identify and request accommodations. Many of our older students who have disabilities were not flagged in K-12. Prior to 1975, public schools were not required to identify those with special needs. These students did not have access to IEP services or the least restrictive environment and may not have been offered a "free and appropriate" public education. SsVCC students with learning disabilities who graduated from high school in the early 1970's (or before) more than likely do not have acceptable documentation to warrant accommodations on the post-secondary level.

9. Identify the extent to which your agency provides "customer-oriented" publications and websites that are designed to be "senior-friendly." If the information you currently provide is not readily accessible to older Virginians, please identify any steps your agency is taking to improve their access to this information.

SsVCC has worked to provide captions for all videos posted on its website. In November 2013, SsVCC's website was screened by the Commonwealth of Virginia for accessibility and scored a 95%. In 2015, SsVCC will be working to improve readability and ease of use of the website.

The Plus 50 Encore program is funded by the American Association of Community Colleges. It is a three-year program, providing \$15,000 of funding. AACC gave SsVCC marketing materials for its Plus 50 Encore program. These materials, as well as the Plus 50 Advisory Committee meeting minutes, are being used to improve services for senior students. SsVCC is also working to implement the recommended action steps from the Plus 50 Advisory Committee meetings.

10. Describe any other services or programs that your agency plans to implement in the future to address the impact of the aging of Virginia's population.

SsVCC continues to produce highly qualified health care professionals, including Nurse Aides, Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses, and EMTs. SsVCC also recently developed a Nurse Aide Advanced curriculum which combines the Basic Nurse Aide program and the Medication Aide program. These programs will continue to produce graduates who will be able to meet the health care needs of Virginia's aging population.

Additional computer and technology training, utilizing specific modules, would be helpful to our aging population. While many older students have expressed interest in improving their computer skills, some of these students are simply not ready for SsVCC's introductory computer course, ITE 115. Short modules on technology-related subjects

would be beneficial. Topics might include how to surf the internet, how to sell on Ebay, or how to use social media.

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) would be beneficial to all students, including our older learners. This concept focuses on the needs of the broadest range of students and seeks to reduce or eliminate those barriers related to learning. This is accomplished by increasing access to course information. UDL is an excellent tool for ensuring that older students have the necessary access to be successful at SsVCC. Faculty will receive training and be encouraged to incorporate UDL in the classroom.

11. Please indicate if your agency is experiencing an increase in employees retiring later and describe any actions your agency is taking or plans to take to accommodate its aging workforce with innovative practices.

SsVCC currently has a growing number of employees becoming eligible for retirement. The College will begin to determine if any actions need to be taken to accommodate an aging workforce. Below is a table of retirement age at Southside Virginia Community College from 2011-2014.

Retirement Age at SsVCC			
Year	Range	Mean	Frequency
2011	61-64	62.8	5
2012	56-68	63.4	10
2013	65-65	65	2
2014	59-78	65.9	11