

PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP

Promoting economic growth, leadership and education within the City of Portsmouth

BUSINESS serving COMMUNITY

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PARTNERSHIP WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

On April 9 the Partnership welcomed six new members to its Board of Directors, representing a broad cross-section of our city's business and Armed Services community. Pictured at left are, from L to R, Robin

Schmalbach, COO, Integrated Management Group, promoters of events at nTelos Wireless Pavilion; Nicole Cox, Director of Sales, Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel and Conference Center; Lisa Lucas-Burke, Quality Assurance Director, Lucas Lodge; Andy Callahan, BB&T's Market President for Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk and Western Hampton Roads; Krystyn Pecora, External Affairs Officer, 5th District Command, United States Coast Guard; and Stephen Korving, Certified Financial Planner and partner at Korving & Company. The Partnership welcomes these new members, thanks them for their volunteer spirit, and deeply appreciates the valuable business savvy, experience, and relationships that these new members will bring to the organization.



First College: Celebrating 10 Years of Success - and Still Growing



A powerful and unique partnership was forged in January 2006 between **Portsmouth Public Schools** and the Portsmouth campus of **Tidewater Community College** with the launch of their **First College** program. First College enables high school students to enroll in a minimum of 12 college credits during the spring semester of their senior year while attending classes at TCC's Portsmouth campus, thus giving them an early opportunity to earn college course credits while experiencing life as a full-time college student in a college environment. A celebration of the program's 10th year of operation, its 1,140 graduates, and its value as both an academic and a career pathway was held at the Fred W. Beazley Portsmouth Campus on Friday, May 8.

The brainchild of former Portsmouth Schools Superintendent Dave Stuckwisch and former TCC Provost Terry Jones, First College provides that Portsmouth Schools cover the cost of transportation, textbooks, and ½ of tuition. For Portsmouth students who qualify for free and reduced lunch (65% of PPS's students do), the **Beazley Foundation** has, from the start, covered the students' share of tuition cost. For years 2012 – 2014, that amounted to \$110,115.

Beazley's assistance for 2015 is expected to total \$24,570 as TCC has reduced the tuition cost to First College participants, making the program available to a greater number of students.

First College has been successful by any measure. Of the program's 1,140 graduates, **98% have pursued career or academic paths** at schools including TCC, William and Mary, George Mason, ODU, VCU, UVa, East Carolina, Randolph Macon, and Virginia Tech, and others; enrollment has grown from 19 scholars in 2006 to 191 in 2015; 2014's enrollment of 167 represented fully **20% of Portsmouth schools' senior cohort**; an **Automotive Technology** pathway was introduced in 2014 at the Regional Automotive Center; students can now choose to take **welding, computer-aided drafting & design**, and other college-level Career and Technical coursework prior to enrollment in First College.

The First College program is, like Portsmouth's **STARBASE**, yet another example of how creative leaders can, by forging strong, cooperative relationships, marshal a city's assets to produce tremendous benefits for our next generation.



Partnership, City Endorse Transportation Grant Request

The Portsmouth Partnership and Interim Portsmouth City Manager Brannon Godfrey have written in support of the City of Chesapeake's request for grade separation at Freeman Avenue, adjacent to Norfolk and Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad's soon-to-be expanded Virginia Yard facility.

The unique opportunity presented by the combination of NPBL's facility expansion and a Freeman Avenue flyover holds value for Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and the entire region. By mitigating congestion caused by the moveable lift bridge on the Elizabeth River's Southern Branch, delays of both rail and vehicular traffic in Portsmouth and Chesapeake will be reduced, as will the delay of maritime traffic along the Elizabeth River's Southern Branch. Perhaps more importantly, the combined project would provide a significant cooperative step toward expanding our existing infrastructure to better handle our port's increasing volume of freight.

The economic health of our region and our Commonwealth demands that we maintain a port which offers rapid, efficient throughput if we are to sustain growth in an increasingly competitive market. The Partnership recognizes that there is no substitute for strong relationships, clear long-term planning, and responsible budgeting if we are to maximize our opportunities.

JOB, INTERNSHIP AND MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES . . .

Is your company looking for seasonal or summer help? The **Portsmouth Public School System** has responsible students eager to work in the areas of nursing, culinary arts, child care, the hospitality industry, industrial welding, and more. To find out how you, your company and our kids can benefit, please contact:

Craig Hill, Coordinator, Career and Technical Education

Portsmouth Public Schools: 822-2711 or 822-2927

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PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP - CITY OF PORTSMOUTH - PHRA
GPDC 17 years 1,000 jobs \$25,000,000 tax revenue

