

HOST OF THE 117TH MEETING: VOLUNTEER STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Volunteer State Community College, Gallatin, Tennessee

Volunteer State Community College is a public two-year community college. The main campus is located in Gallatin, Tennessee, which is 30 miles northeast of Nashville. There are also degree granting centers at McGavock High School in Nashville and Vol State at Livingston in Overton County. Additional class sites are located in North Nashville, Madison, Springfield, Macon County and Wilson County.

Popularly known as Vol State, Volunteer State Community College is part of the Tennessee Board of Regents system which operates 6 universities, 13 community colleges, and 26 technology centers in Tennessee. This system is the sixth largest in the country and educates more than 180,000 students every year.

The college was founded in 1971. The establishment of a state community college in Gallatin involved the cooperative work of many civic leaders and citizens of Sumner County, as well as State officials. A unified proposal for a college was presented to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission in Nashville on September 11, 1967. Upon the recommendation of State Education Commissioner J. H. Warf, Governor Buford Ellington presented the college legislation to the 1969 General Assembly, and it was adopted.

A 100-acre tract of land on Nashville Pike was chosen for the new campus. The property was deeded to the State on December 4, 1969. The new college was named Volunteer State Community College, and this was approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents on July 2, 1970. Ground breaking ceremonies for the first four buildings were held on November 5, 1970.

Volunteer State has experienced phenomenal growth in enrollment, curricula, staff, program, public service, facilities, and quality, over the last 36 years. The main campus of Volunteer State now comprises sixteen buildings, and the Volunteer State campus at Livingston continues to grow. A new building was added at Livingston in 2006 and two more are scheduled for construction. Numerous off-campus operations extend the College's instruction and public service roles throughout its 12 county area. Since its 1971 inception through academic year 2002-2003 more than ninety thousand persons have attended the College. Currently nearly 7,000 students are enrolled in the average fall semester.

The college has a diverse mix of students ranging in age from teens to senior adults. They come from counties across the service area, many states around the nation and more than 25 countries.

Vol State has more than 70 programs in five grand divisions: Humanities, Social Science and Education, Allied Health, Business and Math and Science.

The college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the AA, AS, and AAS degrees. All academic programs eligible for accreditation are fully

accredited. Volunteer State offers the Associate of Arts and Associate of Science transfer degrees in more than 40 areas of emphasis. The college also offers the Associate of Applied Science degrees in the fields of Allied Health, Business, Math and Science, and Social Science and Education. Technical Certificates are offered in Allied Health and Business.

The award winning NewSkills Center is just one of several student support labs and centers designed to help students in math, English and computer instruction. The college is also an innovator in the area of distance learning. Vol State has a wide variety of online course offerings and is one of the top providers for classes in the Regents Online Degree Program. Career Placement and Cooperative Education programs help prepare students for the working world.

The college works to bring education into the community with many Service Learning projects which span all of the divisions. The school has a Science and Math Expo which attracts 700 secondary school children to the campus. It also is a state site for the Science Olympiad. To promote education with the many minority and cultural groups in the Nashville area the college has several programs, including the Hispanic Outreach group, which hosts a Fall Hispanic Fiesta which bring hundreds of people to campus, and a Hispanic Family Education Night.

Guided by the College's mission of "providing innovative learning systems to respond to the ever-changing needs and interests of a diverse and dynamic community and developing workforce," the Division of Continuing Education offers dozens of non-credit courses for personal enrichment and workforce development each semester. Classes are offered through distance learning technologies and in traditional settings. All training programs may be customized to meet the specific needs of area business and industry.

Student life at the school includes a student newspaper, literary magazine, journalism magazine, recording studio and television studio. Students participate in numerous musical groups, theater performances and dozens of student organizations.

The sports teams are nicknamed the Pioneers and Lady Pioneers. Sports include Men's Basketball, Women's Basketball, Women's Fast pitch Softball, Baseball, and various Intramural sports activities.

Each year the College Foundation provides well over \$200,000 for student scholarships through its work with the Foundation Board of Trustees, the Hal R. Ramer Society, and alumni across the region.

The college website, www.volstate.edu, provides information about the classes and programs offered at the school.

The blog www.volunteerstatecommunitycollege.blogspot.com has a unique take on faculty, staff, and student life at Vol State.