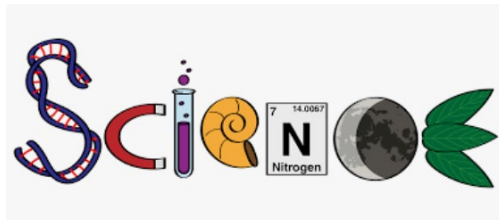




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HLS Webpage

The HLS webpage is a helpful resource for all instructors and students. Here, you can find important dates and information relevant to our division and its many programs.

You can access the HLS Division Webpage here:
<https://www.pvcc.edu/hls>

Visit our webpage to learn about our health and life sciences programs!



Dean's Message



Each year, the arriving classes of new students bring such an exhilarating sense of promise and possibility. Many may not know this, but I am a first-generation college student. My dad was a sheet metal worker, and my mom was a cosmetologist. Neither earned a formal degree, but both were incredibly hard workers and taught me the importance of a good work ethic. For the first ten years of my career, I worked in healthcare as an X-ray technologist and then became an educator for radiography before taking on the Dean position. Like many healthcare workers, I spent most of my life as a hypochondriac. In fact, I've landed myself in the emergency room multiple times because I was sure I had a brain tumor, a neuromuscular disease, every form of malignancy, inflammatory, and

destructive disease known to medicine. Yet, I chose to go into healthcare and learned even more about the multitude of diseases that I had no idea existed but would eventually convince myself that I have.

However, something miraculous happened instead. When I began caring for the patient community, those suffering from the diseases and conditions I have always feared, I shifted my energy from myself to serving others, and my hypochondriasis became less powerful. Then, when I thought taking X-rays was fulfilling enough, two short years into my career, I became a clinical instructor, and it didn't take long for me to realize just how much each student meant to me. Today, I know that my passion for student success far outweighs anything I had ever imagined. If I can plant one small seed of hope into the heart of a struggling student, maybe I will pay forward some of the outstanding instruction given to me years ago when I was a student.

The students here at PVCC are among the most extraordinary students I've been privileged to serve. Perhaps some of it is due to the camaraderie they observe among the remarkable faculty here. Kouzes and Posner (2012) wrote a book called "The Leadership Challenge," which emphasized that leadership requires a commitment to model the way, inspire a shared vision, challenge the process, enable others to act, and encourage their hearts. Each of these practices of exemplary leadership can be found here at PVCC. They are equal in significance because they create a solid foundation for which to uplift and create extraordinary commerce. Although each division here at PVCC is unique in structure, there is an overall commitment to student success from the faculty here that resonates through our halls.

If you are a student and you are here at PVCC, you have already taken a step toward success. For those of you who are first-generation college students like me, you are blazing the path for the future generations in your family. I encourage all of you to stick with your path here at PVCC. Earn your degrees and keep going. And as I did, be sure to seek out those extraordinary leaders and mentors who will support you along the way.



NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Joanna Donovan - Assistant Professor of Nursing



Joanna ("JoJo") completed a BA in Spanish at the University of Mary Washington in 2008. She went on to work at the San Juan Basin Health Department in Durango, Colorado, as a Community Health Worker. She continued her career in community-based health promotion in Harrisonburg, Virginia, at JMU's Institute for Innovation in Health and Human Services. There, she coordinated the Promotoras de Salud (Health Promoters) program, a community health worker training program for Hispanic immigrants. In 2016, JoJo graduated from UVA with an MSN in Clinical Nurse Leadership, completing her capstone on providing a peaceful environment for patients at the end of life in the Medical ICU. After graduating, she worked in UVA's Medical ICU, the Endoscopy Unit, and then as a residential school nurse in a boarding school.

At home, JoJo lives with her husband Gene, daughter Wren (5), and son Rowan (1) at the Miller School of Albemarle. She spends time with her extended family in her free time, foraging for wild foods, hand embroidering, and adventuring outdoors. She has taught non-nursing classes part-time in an independent school for the last three years, including nature connection, outdoor skills, and Spanish. She's very excited about this transition into nursing education at PVCC and to be part of the PVCC community!

NEVER STOP
LEARNING

Jamara Dunn- Assistant Professor of Biology

Jamara Dunn is new to the Charlottesville area. She is originally from Jackson, Mississippi. Her studies began in the Sciences at Mississippi State University, where she attained her bachelor's degree in biological science. She continued her studies at Barry University in Miami, Florida, where she received her master's degree in biomedical science.

When Jamara is not planning and teaching, she usually fills her schedule with adventure and travel, both state-side and abroad. She has a spoiled 11-year-old Yorkshire terrier fur baby who also demands a lot of her time. She loves sports, and her favorite professional teams are the Mississippi State Bulldogs (all sports), Baltimore Ravens, LeBron James and the Lakers, and the Atlanta Braves. She looks forward to working with PVCC students to accomplish their goals and alongside her colleagues to help make PVCC the school to choose.





Azra Faisant - Assistant Professor of Nursing

Azra started her college journey at James Madison University and graduated in 2010 with her bachelor's in health studies. She went on to do research with the Anesthesiology Department at UVA but realized that molecular research was not what she wanted to pursue. She then enrolled in PVCC nursing school and graduated in 2017. She started her nursing career in Thoracic Cardiovascular Surgery at UVA Hospital. During that time, she became a mother and transitioned to the Labor and Delivery unit in 2019. She returned to school to receive her master's in nursing (CNL) and graduated in 2021 from UVA. After graduation, she continued working on labor and delivery before transitioning to teaching in 2023. She's excited to bring her nursing career full circle back to PVCC.

Azra enjoys the outdoors outside work and school with her husband, Luke, and two boys, Liam & Finn. She enjoys kayaking, hiking, and gardening. Her family loves fishing and scuba diving, and most of their vacations are spent at a beach.

Ashley Hart — Assistant Professor of Nursing

Ashley completed an associate of science degree at Germanna Community College in 1998 and a bachelor's degree in biomedical sciences from the University of South Alabama in 2002. She then finished an accelerated paramedic program at Tidewater Community College and began working as a paramedic in Richmond. Soon after, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) and worked at Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems (VCUHS) as a registered nurse in the emergency department before moving to neurological intensive care. After graduation, she worked in the medical-respiratory ICU as a nurse practitioner (NP) and as an outpatient NP with head and neck cancer patients at VCUHS. She earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice with a post-master's certificate in family medicine at the University of Virginia (UVA) in 2018, practicing primary care medicine at UVA before transitioning to teaching in early spring of this year.



Ashley spends her free time with her husband and young daughter outside work and school. She looks forward to working with the PVCC staff and helping students gain knowledge and earn their nursing degrees.



Clarissa Moctezuma — Assistant Professor of Nursing

Clarissa earned an AAS from Central Virginia Community College (CVCC) in 2011 before transferring to complete her BSN at the University of Lynchburg in 2015. From there, she began working as an RN on a medical-surgical floor in Lynchburg, Virginia. A year later, she began serving as RN program coordinator for a local CNA, medication aide, and personal care aide program, where she discovered a love of teaching.

When the company was sold in 2017, she began pursuing her MSN in nursing education at Western Governor's University, which she completed in 2019. She has worked in professional development at Centra Health, as a medical assistant instructor at CVCC, and as a nursing faculty at Longwood University. She completed her DNP in educational leadership in March of this year. She lives in Appomattox with her husband, three children, and a farm full of animals. She is excited to help aspiring nurses achieve their goals and become wonderful additions to our local healthcare communities.



Gwyn Puckett – Biology Lab Manager



Gwyn received her undergraduate degree in Microbiology from the University of Georgia, her Master's in Zoology from Louisiana State University, and additional coursework in Entomology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

She started her academic career by taking classes at Dekalb Community College before transferring to UGA. After moving back to Atlanta, she worked at Georgia Perimeter College (aka Dekalb Community College, same campus) teaching Introductory Biology. She also worked as a lab manager for Dr. Leila Rieder in the Biology department at Emory University before moving to Charlottesville, Virginia.

Gwyn has accomplished the following publications during her career:

Gilbonio, Hannah, E., **Gwyn L. Puckett**, Erica Nguyen, Leila Rieder. Preprint. June 2023. A hybrid RNA FISH immunofluorescence protocol on *Drosophila* polytene chromosomes. bioRxiv, 2023.06.12.544616; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.06.12.544616>

Puckett, Gwyn, L., and Travis Shaw. September 2004. Triad Case Study: Small Arms Firing Range. Remediation, Winter 2004, p 79-87

Puckett, Gwyn, L., and Kevin R. Carman. June 2022. Ciliate Epibiont Effects on Feeding, Energy Reserves, and Sensitivity to Hydrocarbon Contaminants in an Estuarine Harpacticoid Copepod. Estuaries, Vol. 25, No. 3, p 372-391.



Rebecca Spangler — Academic and Operations Coordinator

Rebecca is originally from the San Francisco Bay Area. There, she completed a bachelor's degree in liberal studies with a minor in childhood studies from California State University at East Bay. She attended graduate school at The University of Arizona, where she received her Master of Arts in teaching and teaching education. Her background is in elementary education, and she worked as a classroom teacher for five years before transitioning out of the classroom to PVCC. Most recently, she worked with one of the college's sister divisions as the Workforce Services Operations Supervisor.

A former community college student herself, Rebecca is passionate about the community college system and the access it provides to students. She values teamwork and welcomes opportunities to collaborate with and learn from her colleagues. Outside of work, Rebecca enjoys gardening, playing with her dog, Macie, and traveling to new destinations with her husband, Logan.

JoAnna Wade — Assistant Professor of Nursing

JoAnna completed an associate of science degree at Germanna Community College in 2005, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in 2009, and earned a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN): Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) at Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA in 2015.

Her bedside nursing experience includes Emergency Room, Cardiac Critical Care, Community Health, and Inpatient Psychiatry. She has worked primarily as a PMHNP for the last eight years in outpatient Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) for those with substance use disorders.

She is an associated member of the American Society of Addiction Medicine and is involved locally with the American Psychiatric Nurses Association and the Virginia Council of Nurse Practitioners. She is a sponsor and volunteers with many mental health organizations in Virginia - Mental Health America of Fredericksburg and nationally - American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. She participates in community walks yearly to raise awareness, conveying that suicide is preventable and that no one is alone.

JoAnna enjoys fishing, boating, hiking, and volunteering outside of work. She is an avid Washington Capitals fan and looks forward to working with the PVCC staff and students!



Amanda Zipf – Radiography Clinical Coordinator

Amanda completed an associate of arts degree at Coastal Carolina Community College in 2002. In 2015, she graduated from Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital's School of Radiologic Technology. After several years as a technologist at Sentara Martha Jefferson and Augusta Health, she returned to college to earn a bachelor's degree in radiologic science administration from Saint Joseph's College of Maine in 2021. After graduation, she accepted an adjunct instructor job at PVCC, teaching radiation sciences (physics) to first-year radiography students.

Outside of work, Amanda spends time with her four daughters and husband. When she isn't busy with the family, she enjoys running and training for races. She has completed two full marathons and numerous half marathons. She is looking forward to teaching students full-time in radiography.



Adult Education
Scholarships Lifelong Money
Junior College Funding States Study Programs Transfer
COMMUNITY Continuing
Public COLLEGE Developmental
Technical College Certificates
City College Professors
Education Diplomas Students Institution Two Year Career
Associate Cost eLearning Local
Degrees



Brittany Pokrifka-Hinkle

is the PVCC Rising Star Nominee for 2023

The SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Awards are the Commonwealth's highest honor for faculty at Virginia's public and private colleges and universities. These awards recognize superior accomplishments in teaching, research, and public service.



As a faculty member in the Nursing program, Assistant Professor Pokrifka-Hinkle has consistently demonstrated her commitment to her profession, her students, and the college. Her professionalism, content expertise, and passion for her field have positioned PVCC's licensed practical nursing (LPN) program as outstanding in our area and state. More notably, since Ms. Pokrifka-Hinkle began as a 12-month LPN program lead in 2021, the program's outcomes have increased from below 80% for first-time test takers on the LPN National licensure exam to 100% for the last two years in a row.

Assistant Professor Pokrifka-Hinkle is a compassionate and caring instructor, and she adds these qualities to her expertise in nursing to create a classroom environment that is encouraging and inclusive. Her classroom evaluations reveal the students' views, where they share comments about her caring and supportive nature. This student-focused attitude is her greatest strength as a faculty member. Through this caring spirit, she has assisted her students in staying on track to graduate and helped them mitigate other barriers to success, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Assistant Professor Pokrifka-Hinkle continues to participate in activities that support her professional growth, as well as the growth of the nursing program. She has assisted with activities where visitors met with faculty and staff to showcase the nursing program and labs and actively participates in department meetings, standing college committees, and search committees. It is exciting that she was chosen as PVCC's nominee for this year's SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award Rising Star category!



FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Anne Allison Returns from Sabbatical Year in Florence, Italy



Last year, Anne Allison, Professor of Biology, spent a sabbatical year at Museo Galileo in Florence, Italy. Her visiting professor status gave her access to the museum's library, where she researched scientific literacy and philosophy. Anne engaged in deep reading, primarily focused on Stillman Drake's English translation of Galileo's most infamous work, *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*, published in 1632.

She also read Galileo's *Il Saggiatore (The Assayer, 1623)*, partly in English and partly in Italian. This reading was an especially meaningful experience during the book's quadricentennial anniversary year. Going forward, Anne will incorporate more philosophy of science into her courses so students can strengthen their scientific literacy and find more meaning in the material. Anne will present reflections on her sabbatical experience to faculty and staff in September.

Anne Allison is pictured here with Roberto Ferrari, Director of Museo Galileo, Florence, Italy, in June 2023

Tammy Zanzal Earns a Master of Science in Nursing Degree



Tammy Zanzal earned her MSN-Ed in the fall of 2022 and attended graduation in Phoenix, AZ, in May of 2023 from Grand Canyon University.

Tammy is a full-time nursing Instructor for the associate degree Nursing Program at PVCC, having joined us last year! Tammy is an essential nursing team member and brings much experience as a Clinician IV RN with experience in Thoracic Cardiovascular Surgery.



Trish Rinald Secures a \$40,000 Grant for the MLT Program

The Medical Laboratory Technology program recently received two grants. The first was a \$1600 Program Director's award from the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) to support virtual simulations for several core courses and certification preparation materials. The second was from the Commonwealth Transfusion Foundation, which supports Virginia-based transfusion and healthcare initiatives.

Working with the PVCC Educational Foundation, a grant proposal for \$40,000 was submitted and approved for the purchase of equipment and reagents to ensure program graduates are prepared to immediately assist with essential laboratory testing that is critical to the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of disease in the blood bank laboratory setting.



Students who work with these equipment and supply items can perform realistic analyses and use the results to determine the best blood product for the simulated patient. This approach produces students who understand the art and science of transfusion medicine and are prepared to work in the high-quality healthcare facilities in our service region.

Lisa Burrington Earns Vascular Sonography Certification

In December 2022, Lisa Burrington, Assistant Professor of Sonography, passed the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Vascular Board Exam. Sonography is broken up into specialties. The program at PVCC offers General and OB/GYN sonography. Lisa earned the registry for Vascular Sonography, which will help the program expand its offerings. There were two parts to the credential test: physics and vascular ultrasonography. Lisa passed both easily and is proud to have earned the additional credential, allowing her to teach in the new modality.



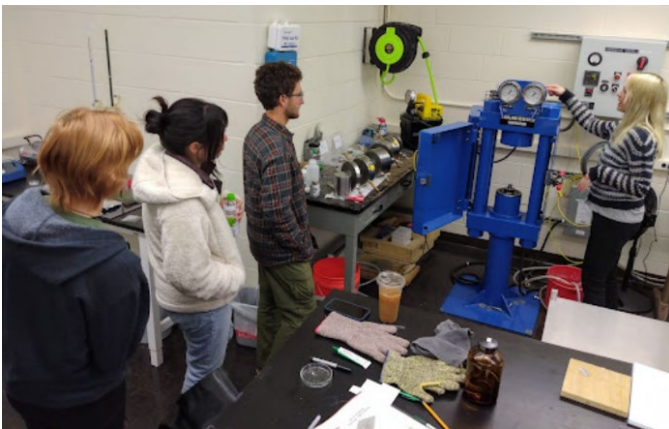
YOU DID IT!
CONGRATULATIONS!

Geology Club Takes a Trip to New York for Annual Meeting of Geoscience Teachers

In May 2023, amid the thicket of exams, Associate Professor of Geology Callan Bentley took three students from PVCC's geology club up to Ithaca, New York, to attend the annual meeting of the Eastern Section of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers. Participating students were Ezra Staengl, Caroline Kenney, and Daisy Dudley. On the long drive to the Finger Lakes region, the PVCC team stopped in Virginia and Pennsylvania three times to go fossil hunting. They found trilobites, crinoids, and brachiopods. The stratigraphic section at Newport, Pennsylvania, was instructive in showing the sedimentary sequence produced by an advancing delta ~360 million years ago and deformation (folding and tilting) related to Appalachian mountain-building ~300 million years ago.



PROFESSOR CALLAN BENTLEY AND PVCC STUDENTS EZRA STAENGL, CAROLINE KENNEY, AND DAISY DUDLEY AT BUTTERMILK FALLS.



CORNELL PROFESSOR MEGAN HOLYCROSS GIVES PVCC STUDENTS EZRA STAENGL, CAROLINE KENNEY, AND DAISY DUDLEY A TOUR OF HER EXPERIMENTAL PETROLOGY LABORATORY.

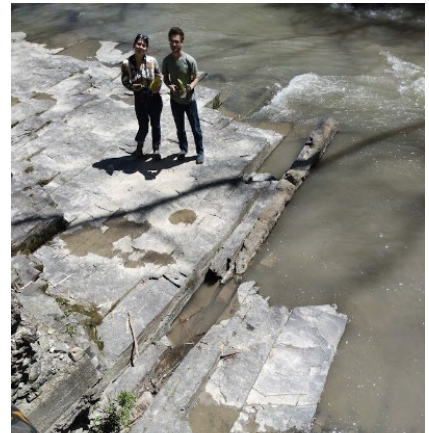
On Friday morning, the team visited Dr. Megan Holycross of Cornell University. She joined them for breakfast and then gave a tour of her laboratory, where she conducts high-pressure and high-temperature experiments on rock samples. Dr. Holycross demonstrated her technique's power and limitations, which works on samples of rock only a few millimeters across.

The meeting was held at the Museum of the Earth in Ithaca, a Paleontological Research Institution-run Museum. The suite of fossils on display was extraordinary. The students joined Professor Bentley in giving a talk about the PVCC Geology Club's terrific success in generating a positive, supportive community over the past year. At the geo-auction, the PVCC team procured small fossils to be given to participating children in the fall 2023 "Rock Day" on campus.



Geology Club Continued...

The meeting was largely centered around field trips, looking at rocks, structures, and landforms in their natural context. The team visited Taughannock Falls, the tallest waterfall east of the Mississippi, which gouges through the Finger Lakes region's flat-lying Devonian-aged shales and limestones. They also examined a dike of igneous rock called kimberlite, which was intruded in a fracture through the Devonian shales near downtown. This rock is sourced from Earth's mantle and is named for Kimberly, South Africa, where they are mined for diamonds.



PVCC STUDENTS DAISY DUDLEY AND EZRA STAENGL STAND NEXT TO A KIMBERLITE DIKE THAT CUTS THROUGH DEVONIAN SHALES AT SIX MILE CREEK NEAR ITHACA.

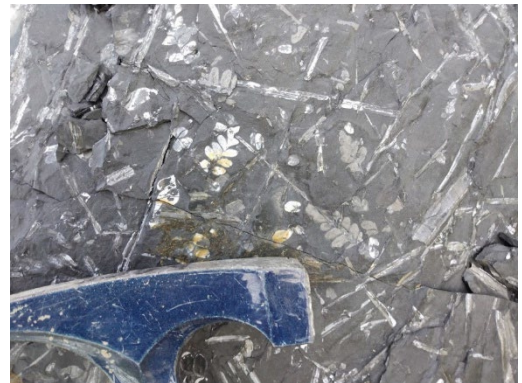


PVCC STUDENT CAROLINE KENNEY SKETCHES TAUGHANNOCK FALLS

The Ithaca kimberlites are, sadly, diamond-free. We also visited a wetland preserve owned by the Nature Conservancy, where Pleistocene glaciers deposited interesting snake-like landforms called eskers. These eskers are thought to form due to flowing pressurized water within the glacial ice mass. Between the eskers were bogs that contained insectivorous plants such as pitcher plants. Another highlight was birds; three of the team are avid birdwatchers. They were delighted to see peregrine falcons, common mergansers, prairie warblers, northern waterthrush, and wild turkey.

On the way home Sunday, the team stopped in the remnants of the abandoned town of Centralia, Pennsylvania, where a coal seam fire has been burning for six decades. There, the PVCC crew collected ancient plant fossils. All felt it was a very full and very interesting 4-day trip. All three students graduated from PVCC this past spring, but Professor Bentley intends to make the NAGT-Eastern Section meeting a regular part of the Geology Club's annual calendar in the future.

Carboniferous-aged plant fossils (~360 Ma) from the Llewellyn Formation of Centralia, Pennsylvania. Hammer for scale.



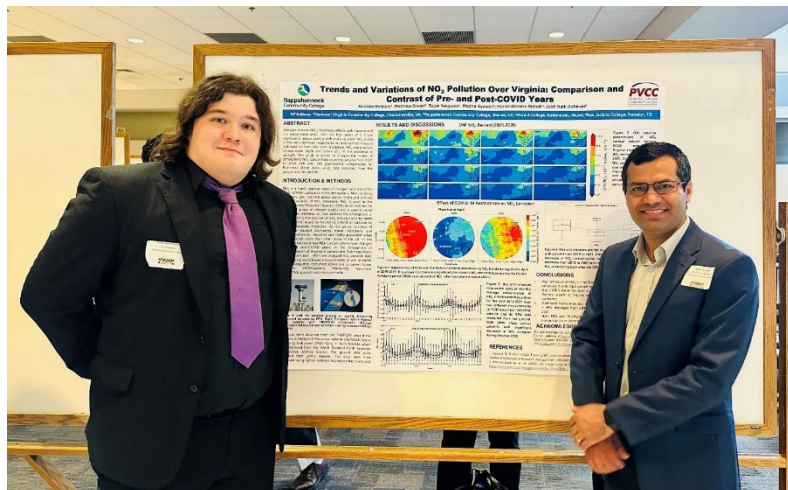
Assistant Professor Harish Subedi attends the Virginia Experiential Learning Conference (VCCS XLearn) at NOVA and the Lilly Conference (Evidence-based Teaching and Learning Conference) in Ashville, NC.

Starting in January 2023, Dr. Harish Subedi, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, collaborated with multiple faculty members from diverse colleges to advance research initiatives while actively engaging students. The collaboration paved a path where VCCS students could learn more about manipulating data on atmospheric pollution. The focus was a project centered on atmospheric pollution data from the EPA ground-based and NASA satellite-based measurements. This data encompassed timeframes preceding, during, and after the COVID-19 outbreak. One of Dr. Subedi's students, Andrew Holstein, who had previously taken General Chemistry I and General Chemistry II, was interested in this endeavor due to his proficiency in data analysis.

In parallel, Dr. Subedi collaborated with a student under the mentorship of Dr. Lekh Adhikari, a faculty member at Rappahannock Community College. The four convened weekly, engaging in meetings and discussions. Their joint endeavors reached fruition when they presented their research at the Virginia Experiential Learning Conference (VCCS XLearn), which took place at NOVA on April 15, 2023. The conference mainly focused on student success, providing an exceptional platform for exchanging ideas and learning from fellow presenters. Details of the conference can be found via the link below. <https://xlearnconferenceva.org/>

This accomplishment resulted from close collaboration with Dr. Madhu Gyawali from San Jacinto College, TX. We thank Dr. Gyawali for his invaluable assistance and guidance, imparted over Zoom meetings, in utilizing NASA and EPA data for undergraduate research.

The following is the summary of Andrew's experience on this research project and the VCCS XLearn conference he attended.



"As a Generation Z student who will be most affected by climate change, I became very interested in an ecological research opportunity. We would measure the quality before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic to see how much we affect the air quality of our vehicles. The chemical we chose to measure is nitrogen dioxide because it can be the building block for other pollutants, and it's what our vehicle fumes can build to when exposed to the sun's UV rays. We used data from the EPA ground satellites and NASA orbital satellites that already measured it throughout the past two decades. We would get together with another student and professor from Rappahannock Community College to organize and interpret the data. With all our hard work being brought together, it was time to present the fruits of our labor.

The VCCS XLearn conference was a resounding success, and we were able to present our work to plenty of people and give away copies of our poster, shown in the Keats Science Building! We plan to continue with our work in analyzing other parts of Virginia and what other pollutants are prevalent in the Commonwealth, such as ozone, particulate matter (PM), and sulfur dioxide. I will continue this research by taking the science capstone 299 course with Professor Subedi."

Dr. Harish Subedi, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, travels to VCU with ten students from PVCC's Science Club

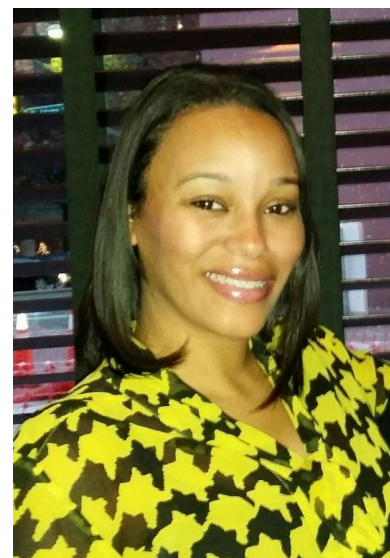
As a faculty advisor for the Science Club at PVCC, Dr. Harish Subedi traveled to VCU on April 3, 2023, with ten students to attend a session for the general admission process for undergraduate programs. In addition, students participated in a general campus tour and visited four research labs (Dhakal Lab, Arachchige Lab, Wang Lab, and Turner Lab). They also toured an instrument lab, learning about the working principles of various chemistry lab instruments VCU students and professors used for their research and teaching.



Pharmacy Technician Program Earns Full-Reward for Reaccreditation Under the Guidance of Program Director Krystal Green

The Pharmacy Technician Program has been accredited by ASHP/ACPE (American Society of Health-Systems Pharmacists/Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education) since 2017. In October 2022, the program underwent a reaccreditation site visit, resulting in the reward of another six years of accreditation. This means that the program met industry standards of educating future pharmacy technicians to work in various areas of pharmacy such as retail, hospital, or specialty.

The program focuses on patient safety as it relates to patient medication needs. When students complete the program, they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to meet the requirements for entry to mid-level pharmacy technician positions based on the needs of employers. Associate Professor and Program Director Krystal Green expressed her passion for leading the program and guiding students in a rewarding field that can either be a sustainable career or lead to more advanced positions in the medical field.

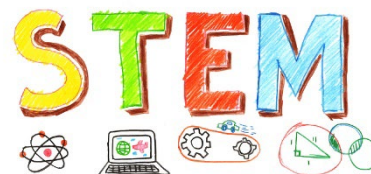


Donna Hoefner and Irina Liskey attended the Quantitative Biology at Community Colleges (QB@CC) Group Meeting at HHMI

In February 2023, Donna Hoefner, Associate Professor of Biology, and Irina Liskey, Professor of Mathematics, attended the Quantitative Biology at Community Colleges (QB@CC) Group Meeting at HHMI. This grassroots community college faculty network has been working with math faculty to generate a collection of Open Educational Resources (OERs) for teaching quantitative skills in community college biology courses. Once developed, these materials are published and made widely available to community colleges.

During the meeting, they attended presentations and various workshops to learn about the group's importance and goals on how they can contribute to the collection. During one presentation, they were able to engage in the student experience to try out an active learning technique used with groups. In the end, they shared an idea for a project to develop for the collection. Since then, the two have been working on a Canvas module for the Science 299 course, which includes Irina's video lectures on relevant statistics used by our PVCC students, as well as quizzes on the video content and several activities for students to apply to relevant biology data.

Dr. Hoefner plans to pilot the module with one of her Science 299 Capstone students this fall, with hopes of publishing it in Spring 2024.



PVCC Receives Another 5-years of Funding in Collaboration with UVA for the LSAMP Grant



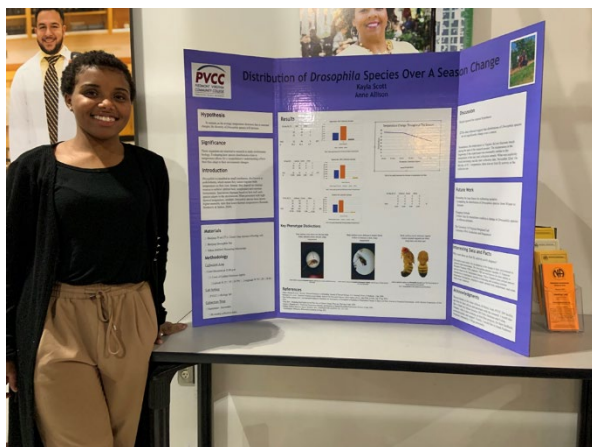
The Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) is an NSF-funded program designed to retain and promote the participation of underrepresented groups in STEM fields. There are over forty LSAMP programs throughout the United States. Each alliance comprises community colleges, 4-year colleges, and universities that work together to recruit students into STEM fields and support students as they progress through their undergraduate and graduate education.

PVCC is part of the Virginia-North Carolina LSAMP community alongside Bennett College, Elizabeth City State University, George Mason University, Johnson C. Smith University, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, Old Dominion University, Saint Augustine's University, University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Peninsula Community College, and Virginia Tech.

Students in the program can receive stipends, tutoring, and mentoring support, gain valuable research experience through symposia, workshops, and summer research programs, and take advantage of bridge programs as they progress

through their education. PVCC aids in this mission by recruiting students to STEM fields through our Jump Start STEM program, where students can earn STEM and SDV course credits at no cost. In addition to recruitment, PVCC also focuses on retaining students in STEM fields by providing unique research opportunities through the Science 299 independent research program.

Under the guidance of the College's LSAMP Lead Faculty, Dr. Melinda Clark, Associate Professor of Biology, PVCC will continue to focus efforts on retention by building a STEM community at PVCC through the establishment of a STEM club as well as a peer mentoring program.



Achieving the Dream

In June, several department chairs, including our own division's science chair, Dr. Marlena Yost, Professor of Biology, joined upper administration to attend the Achieving the Dream (AtD) conference in Milwaukee.

AtD is an organization that guides colleges through a transformative process to improve student success. During the conference, the team reviewed a lot of data to pinpoint areas of weaknesses and strengths at PVCC.

Over the next three years, the team will work with two external mentors to help determine the best high-impact practices, implement them and measure their effectiveness. Several of PVCC's sister schools have undergone the process and have seen encouraging results.



DREAM
BIG



Academic Calendar and Division Policies

College and Division Policies

The following PVCC and Division policies need to be followed to ensure that your semester runs smoothly:

Syllabi- Please submit syllabi electronically to the division office. Please **DO NOT FORGET** to include the weekly schedule of material covered and assignments due. The office is required to keep these, and the weekly schedule is a SACS requirement.

PVCC Email- Please use your PVCC email when communicating. Your PVCC email is the official form of communicating. Please check this email often.

Security Training- Please complete your security training. If this is not done you will lose access to Canvas, Peoplesoft (SIS) and your email. You should receive an email from IT informing you that it is time to do this required training.

Faculty Mailboxes- Please be sure to check your mailboxes in the Faculty/Staff Lounge in the main building and the division office.

Office Hours- Please post your office hours. You can send your hours to the division office for a printed insert.

Fall 2023 Academic Calendar

Sessions	16 Week	12 Week	First 8 Week	Second 8 Week
Open registration for all students	3/27			
Classes begin	8/21	9/11	8/21	10/18
Last day to register/add a course or request an audit	8/25	9/15	8/25	10/24
Labor Day College Closed No Classes	9/4			
Last day to drop a course with a refund	9/7	9/25	8/29	10/26
Fall Break No Classes	10/9-10/10			
Last day to drop a course with a grade of "W"	10/30	11/8	9/25	11/27
Election Day College Closed No Classes	11/7			
Thanksgiving Break College Closed No Classes	11/22-11/24			
Classes end	12/12		10/17	12/19
Fall 2023 Final Exam Schedule	12/13-12/19		Last class	
Final Grades Due by Noon	12/21		10/19	12/21

Attendance Verification and Grades Due Dates

Fall 2023 Grades Due By...	
16W	December 21 st , 2023 by Noon
12W	December 21 st , 2023 by Noon
8W1	October 19 th , 2023 by Noon
8W2	December 21 st , 2023 by Noon

Attendance Verification Dates for Fall 2023				
Session	Email Sent to Faculty for Student Never Attended	Due Date for Never Attended Responses	Email Sent to Faculty for Student Stopped Attending	Due Date for Stopped Attending Responses
16W	September 8 th	September 15 th	October 31 st	November 7 th
12W	September 26 th	October 3 th	November 9 th	November 16 th
8W1	August 30 th	September 6 th	September 26 th	October 3 rd
8W2	October 27 th	November 3 rd	November 28 th	December 4 th

These dates are scheduled for one day after the drop with a refund deadline and the last day to withdraw with a W grade. The deadline for responses is one week after the emails have been sent. **Attendance Verification is *not* optional, it is mandatory in order for the college to receive federal financial aid. Once you receive the email from Allyson Rea, you *must* follow the link to complete the requested verification by the date indicated in the email.**

Never Attended: If a student NEVER logs on (online) or shows up (in-person) to the class, and NEVER completes an instructional activity, they have never attended.

Stopped Attending: If a student logs on (online) or shows up (in-person) and completes at least one instructional activity, but then misses a number of consecutive days (varies according to class meeting frequency, see below), they have stopped attending –

*Class Meets **Once a Week** ----- 2 Consecutive Times*
*Class Meets **Twice a Week** ----- 4 Consecutive Times*
*Class Meets **Three Times a Week** ----- 6 Consecutive Times*

