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COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES IN VIRGINIA (CICV)
ELECTS FY 26-27 OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
Roanoke College President Frank Shushok to serve as Chair

RICHMOND, VA – October 1, 2026 – The Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia, Inc. (CICV) announces the election of a new slate of officers from its Annual Meeting held September 29-30, 2026 at the University of Richmond. The 28-member Board of Directors, representing Virginia's accredited, nonprofit private colleges and universities, selected new leadership to guide CICV through the fiscal year starting October 1: Roanoke College President Frank Shushok was elected Chair of the Board. Randolph College President Sue Ott Rowlands will serve as Vice Chair, and Hampton University President LTG (ret) Darrell K. Williams was chosen as Secretary/Treasurer.

CICV's immediate past Chair and University of Richmond President said, 'Presidents Shushok, Ott Rowlands, and Williams bring the experience, judgment, and collaborative leadership CICV needs to advocate effectively in Richmond and Washington, and to demonstrate the critical role of our 28 nonprofit private institutions.'



Frank Shushok



Sue Ott Rowlands



Darrell K. Williams

"At Roanoke College, we are working every day to meet students where they are and prepare them for the future they will help shape. Through new academic pathways, stronger connections between college and career, regional partnerships, and investments in discovery, innovation, and student success, we see the extraordinary value that nonprofit private colleges bring to Virginia," said President Shushok. He continued, "CICV gives our institutions a collective voice at a moment when higher education must be both more accessible and more responsive to the needs of students, families, employers, and communities. I am honored to serve as Chair and look forward to advancing the essential role Virginia's nonprofit private colleges play in building talent, strengthening regions, and expanding opportunity across the Commonwealth," said Shushok.

In addressing her new role, President Ott Rowlands said, "At Randolph College, we are seeing how renewed enrollment, creative academic programming, and care of our historic campus can successfully position a central Virginia institution for the future. A similar spirit of innovation can be seen across Virginia's nonprofit private colleges, so I am honored to serve as Vice Chair of CICV and look forward to working with my colleagues to advance a mission that strengthens students, campuses, and communities across Virginia."

Hampton University President Darrell K. Williams remarked, "As Secretary/Treasurer of CICV, I am pleased to support institutions that are preparing Virginia's workforce, advancing innovation and research, and expanding opportunity for students from every background. Virginia's nonprofit private colleges are vital to the Commonwealth because they educate the talent our communities and employers need while fostering creativity, discovery, and diversity that strengthen our future. I look forward to working with my colleagues to keep these institutions strong, vibrant, and accessible."

Since its founding in 1971, CICV has worked to strengthen private nonprofit higher education, expand opportunities for students, and educate key decision-makers about the value that member institutions provide to Virginia's workforce and economy. "At a time when concerns about affordability, new federal limits on student borrowing, and demographic pressures are reshaping higher education, Virginia's investment in student aid, especially TAG, is more important than ever. TAG expands access for students and delivers a strong return for the Commonwealth, nearly doubling the state's investment in tax revenue," said CICV President Christopher K. Peace.

CICV's Executive Committee provides strategic leadership and direction for the organization and is composed of six presidents: Shushok; Ott Rowlands; Williams; immediate past Chair Kevin Hallock, President of the University of Richmond; Mary Dana Hinton, President of Hollins University; and Michael Hill, President of Randolph-Macon College, who will serve the unexpired 1-year term of retired University of Lynchburg President Alison Morrison-Shetlar.

About CICV: The Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia, Inc. (CICV), more commonly known as Virginia Private Colleges, represents 28 accredited nonprofit private colleges and universities across the Commonwealth. Together, these institutions are a major educational and economic force in Virginia. A 2024 economic impact report by Mangum Economics found that CICV member institutions employed approximately 30,000 people and generated \$4.6 billion in economic activity during the 2023 academic year, including roughly \$2.0 billion in wages and benefits and \$157 million in state and local tax revenue.

CICV institutions also produce graduates in fields essential to the Commonwealth's future. In 2024, 39,871 degrees and credentials were awarded, led by bachelor's degrees (17,664) and master's degrees (12,403), followed by doctoral, certificate, and associate credentials. The largest areas of study included Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services (6,919); Health Professions and Related Programs (5,356); Education (5,205); Psychology (4,311); and Theology and Religious Vocations (2,853). These graduates meet critical workforce needs, with this recent cohort satisfying more than half of the Commonwealth's annual occupation-driven demand in high-demand fields, including K-12 teaching. In its 2026 CICV Human Capital Economic Impact Report, Mangum Economics estimated the annual economic value of this enhanced labor productivity at \$161.6 million, and the long-term stream of benefits generated while they remain active in the workforce at \$2.3 billion.

For more information about CICV and its member institutions, please visit www.cicv.org.