



It's What Happens Inside...

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



VISION

The Roanoke Higher Education Center, known throughout the Roanoke region as a dynamic learning community of colleges and organizations, responds to the evolving needs of the current and future workforce.

MISSION

The Roanoke Higher Education Center develops partnerships and maintains a state-of-the-art facility that provides citizens of the Roanoke region access to training, certifications and degrees.



ROANOKE HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

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Annette M. Lewis	T.A.P./This Valley Works
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Robert H. Sandel	Virginia Community College System

MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

John S. Edwards	Senate of Virginia
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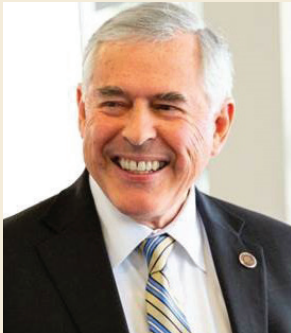
MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR OF VIRGINIA

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Shatenita Horton	Roanoke, VA
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RHEC LEADERSHIP

Kay Dunkley	Executive Director
Carla James	Senior Director of Academic & Student Services
Jeremiah McMillan	Director of Facility Services
Lori Van Curen	Director of Finance & Administration

A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP



Dear Friends,

We opened the new Central Walkway Plaza with a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 1, 2022, before an enthusiastic crowd. The plaza pays tribute to the rich history of Gainesboro, which for

years was the center of African American cultural and economic life.

The plaza has granite markings with a phone application telling the story of this area of Roanoke. It offers a campus-style atmosphere connecting the main building to the Claude Moore Education Complex. It provides a place for students and visitors to read and study and an outdoor lab for our culinary arts students. I encourage you to visit this new plaza.

Virginia State University has recently joined the RHEC as a partner and will provide important new programs.

Our new RHEC Foundation is busy raising funds and providing scholarships for worthy students. Our Development Officer, Kaitlyn Van Buskirk, held an exciting and successful fundraising event for the Foundation, "Brews and Bubbles."

RHEC continues to provide state-of-the-art programs by our partner colleges, universities and organizations. They offer education and training, and grant certificates and degrees to meet the needs of our current and future workforce.

We want to thank Kay Dunkley, Executive Director, Carla James, Senior Director of Academic and Student Affairs, and our dedicated staff for their outstanding work in serving the educational needs of our region.



Sincerely,
Senator John S. Edwards
Chair Board of Trustees

NuFocus Joins the RHEC: Supporting Entrepreneurs, Making Connections, Growing Business

Increasing access to education through partnerships with area colleges and organizations is at the heart of the Roanoke Higher Education Center's (RHEC) mission. Job training and workforce development go hand in hand with fulfilling this goal, stimulating the local economy. The newest member of the RHEC, NuFocus, is a multifaceted organization that uniquely serves this mission and is poised to make an even bigger impact in the Roanoke business community.

NuFocus is the brainchild of Thomas Page, a United States veteran and native of Northwest Roanoke. After 13 years in the military, during which he was able to continue his education, Page pursued his two passions, music and entrepreneurship, which opened up many opportunities and eventually led him down the path of training other entrepreneurs. As a singer and songwriter, Page was deeply connected with the local music business scene and saw how new businesses were emerging that needed training, connections and support.

Page initially started a media company called NuFocus Group LLC to bridge the gap between independent artists and small business artists. Through an online radio station, a magazine, online web shows and original visual media content, Page's platform promoted local businesses and created opportunities for collaboration. Page stated, "We put them together so that while there's different spaces



“We wanted to make sure we were connecting businesses together and to be able to have each one of them grow. Everyone gets stronger. Everyone gets bigger.”

– THOMAS PAGE

of seasonality where people aren't able to get contracts, maybe they can work together to supplement each other, and also build more of their clientele.”

Page converted the success he initially found supporting the entertainment industry, expanding into other sectors and creating the non-profit NuFocusedX LLC (NFX). They now work with small to intermediate business owners, non-profit organizations, independent artists and other entrepreneurs to provide business strategy, support and resources.

Being located in Roanoke's historic Gainsboro neighborhood, which was once an important social and commercial center for African Americans, was very important to Page. “I'm a Black male from Northwest Roanoke,” he said. “Knowing that there have been limited options to that population, we wanted to target there first, but it allowed for us to be able to work with everyone. We wanted to make sure we were connecting businesses together and to be able to have each one of them grow. Everyone gets stronger. Everyone gets bigger.”

One of their signature programs is the WEB Academy (Workforce + Entrepreneurship = Business), which supports Roanoke entrepreneurs with a business curriculum, support resources, technical work spaces and networking. According to Page, they are currently training a cohort of 10 individual small businesses. Page's team provides training from the Entrepreneurial Learning Initiative, which helps to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset.

Another component of the WEB Academy offers workforce training. They specifically target 16- to 24-year olds to help them launch into successful careers. Not only do they teach administrative skills, but NuFocus also provides an opportunity for students to take on supplemental work from the other entrepreneurs in the program. They also present a summer concert series in Gainsboro, allowing all entities to work together on an actionable project for the community good, Page said.

Since 2013, NuFocus has operated out of the Lawson building in Gainsboro, where entrepreneurs can set up their own storefront, have administrative space or even utilize their recording studio. Page has seen what their Gainsboro neighbor, the Roanoke Higher Education Center, has been doing in the community and wanted to introduce its training there. As the newest member, NuFocus will hold its WEB Academy in the downtown headquarters. On a given day you might find a working classroom where trainees are running through real-world scenarios with their instructors.

According to Page, there are many young people who are skilled in media, event planning or sales, who did not even know that the RHEC has programs to help them learn and succeed. NuFocus will make those connections happen.

“Our goal is just to continue to be there, be a resource to the city, and hopefully stay,” said Page, “and to be able to make some change in the entrepreneur space.”

Learn more at: www.nufocusva.com

JMU's Educational Leadership Program Trains Top Leaders in the Field

“James Madison University’s (JMU) Educational Leadership program at the Roanoke Higher Education Center (RHEC) is making a profound impact on education in the region,” said Carla L. James, PhD, RHEC’s Senior Director of Academic & Student Services.

While the JMU main campus is located in Harrisonburg, the university has educational sites located throughout the state. Now in its seventh year, the Educational Leadership program has a home at the RHEC. The program prepares educators to take on principal and other high-level administrative positions in schools and district offices, leading to effective schools for all children.

The program has been very successful. Dr. Richard Turner, Roanoke’s Site Coordinator, Professional and Continuing Education at James Madison University, coordinates the program in Roanoke and is also an adjunct professor. He states that since the first cohort of students completed the program four years ago, they have gone on to fill 46 administrative positions.

“They are getting jobs,” said Turner. “They are making more money, and are impacting more students and more teachers too, through their leadership.”

The program offers two options to meet the state requirement to become endorsed as a school administrator: a Certificate in Educational Leadership for those who already have earned a master’s degree; and a Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Education, concentration in Educational Leadership. Candidates who have the appropriate teaching license, who complete either the certificate or master’s degree, are prepared to take the state’s required leadership assessment test, the SLLA (School Leadership Licensure Assessment).

Each year, Turner typically has two cohorts running at the same time, which vary in size.



“They are getting jobs. They are making more money, and are impacting more students and more teachers too, through their leadership.”

–Dr. Richard Turner

At the moment, there are approximately 30 students in the program. Since the Covid-19 pandemic began, JMU restructured to offer their classes both in person and remotely. This structure is still in place today, allowing for a great deal of flexibility.

Most of the instruction takes place in Room 601 of the Roanoke Higher Education Center. A few courses are only offered remotely; for example, master’s students are required to take an additional five classes online through JMU. The other classes are the same for both cohorts.

All in all, 102 students have studied in the Educational Leadership program at the RHEC and have collectively taken 520 JMU courses.

By and large, most students in the program are teachers, with a few on leave from their jobs. Typically, it takes them two years to complete the program, although a few choose to jump into both cohorts at the same time and complete it in as little as a year. Afterward, students are qualified to obtain a variety of jobs, but for the most part they become assistant principals or deans, Turner said.

It’s clear that these educators are very marketable. In the past two years alone, graduates have gone on to hold top positions in Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Salem City, Franklin County, Henry County, Bedford County and more. These new positions include two principals, 13 assistant principals, three deans, plus an additional six who have taken on other leadership positions in administration.

“They are having great success,” Turner added.



A NEW PATH FORWARD: The Central Walkway Plaza



Roanoke Higher Education Center (RHEC) staff, members, community leaders, supporters and students came together on June 1 to celebrate the grand opening of the Central Walkway Plaza with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Connecting RHEC's main building with the Claude Moore Education Campus, the new plaza expands the campus by 10,000 feet and features green space, a brick walkway, a seat wall and an outdoor learning laboratory for culinary arts students.

Importantly, the Central Walkway honors the rich legacy of the Gainsboro neighborhood in which the Center is located. Gainsboro was once a vibrant economic and cultural center for African Americans in Roanoke. RHEC leaders partnered with their Gainsboro neighbors to identify important historical themes and events from 1835-1970, which are engraved in granite markings on the brick walkway.

Dr. Carla L. James, Senior Director of Academic & Student Services, announced the launch of The Gainsboro History Project, an interactive mobile app that provides an interactive history and walking tour of the African American influence in Roanoke. Featuring text, graphics and video, this dynamic app helps preserve the legacy of Gainsboro and its people, sharing stories that have not fully been told.

"I always feel a sense of pride whenever I spend time in the historic Gainsboro neighborhood," said Roanoke Mayor Sherman P. Lea Sr. "As your mayor, I'm proud of the many accomplishments of the Roanoke Higher Education Center."

Additionally, RHEC partner American Electric Power Foundation provided scholarships to five need-based minority students in the amount of \$13,500, and leaders shared that Virginia State University had joined the Center as its first Historically Black College and University.

Scan the code to view the app!



Educational Testing Center Earns National Certification

In March 2022, the Roanoke Higher Education Center's (RHEC) Educational Testing Center received the National College Testing Association's (NCTA) Test Center Certification, achieving national status as a leader in excellent testing practices. With this recognition, the Educational Testing Center joins the ranks of 200 other post-secondary test centers across the United States and around the world that meet exemplary test administration standards.

According to Deborah Snellings-Pate, RHEC's Educational Testing Center Coordinator, the national certification "recognizes that we go above and beyond what is even required. It establishes that we have high standards in test security, candidate confidentiality and customer service."

Snellings-Pate spearheaded the effort, which she described as a rigorous year-long process requiring huge amounts of data. Her team helped assemble all the application materials, including their mission statement, annual reports, customer service surveys, opening and closing procedures, and procedures used for individual test sponsors, to name a few. The team even revamped and formalized their proctor training materials, which had the added benefit of enhancing proctor training.



Earning national certification only serves to underscore the high quality of the testing center and the testing center staff.

– Dr. Carla L. James,
Senior Director of Academic & Student Services

Test takers around the Valley already know what a gem they have with the Educational Testing Center, where proctoring is available for graduate school exams, distance-learning students and industry-specific tests. More than 4,000 tests are given there every year. Through partnerships with area universities and individual test sponsors, students have access to hundreds of exams, helping them to achieve their academic and professional goals. On any given day, students may be taking the GED, teacher certification Praxis exams or a distance exam from Old Dominion University, a member of the Roanoke Higher Education Center.



Several things set the Educational Testing Center apart from other area testing sites, according to Snellings-Pate. First, they work with around 15 different test sponsors, more than any other test center, which each require certification in their own protocol. Additionally, RHEC is the only authorized GED testing center in the region. Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Region 5 Adult Education, another member of RHEC, prepares students to take the GED, and then students take the exam onsite. Further, the Educational Testing Center is the only facility to offer I-9 employment eligibility verification within a large radius.

The Educational Testing Center is modern, quiet and comfortable, and students have access to the RHEC Library for test preparation study guides and materials. The center is open during weekday business hours, as well as select evenings and Saturdays, an added convenience to those working during the day.

The staff always strive to protect the integrity of the exam and the exam environment, as well as to offer exceptional customer service at the same time, Snellings-Pate said. Clearly, these twin goals have been attained, as test takers from other areas of Southwestern Virginia will drive long distances to take their exams at RHEC.

And now they have national recognition to prove it.



ROANOKE HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER FOUNDATION

Shaping the Future of Higher Education

RHEC Foundation Board of Directors:

John S. Edwards | Chair
Kay Dunkley | President
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Samuel Oakey IV
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Michael Wray

MISSION: The Foundation supports the Roanoke Higher Education Center and its partner institutions through fundraising and resource development to meet the evolving demands of our region's diverse workforce through education, training, student services and lifelong learning programs.

VISION: To strengthen the region's economy by supporting access to education and training that empowers the region's workforce and improves the quality of life.

TAGLINE: Advancing Learning. Securing Our Future.



ROANOKE HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER Awards Scholarships

The Roanoke Higher Education Center (RHEC) awarded scholarships to five individuals at a ceremony held on June 1. The money to support this tuition assistance program was made possible by a grant from the American Electric Power Foundation through their Social and Racial Equity: Diversity in Partnership initiative. To be eligible for the funding, adult learners were asked to justify a need for financial assistance and verify their program of study was offered on-site at RHEC.

This is the first time in the history of the Center that scholarships were available. “The American Electric Power Foundation is pleased to support the work of the Roanoke Higher Education Center,” said Larry Jackson, Director of External

Affairs, Appalachian Power. “Access to education is critical to unlocking the true potential of our region,” Jackson added.

A total of \$13,500 was distributed to the following: Bridgette Bentley, a James Madison University student enrolled in an Educational Leadership Certificate Program; Jessica Clervoi, a James Madison University student working toward a master’s degree in educational leadership; Alberta Craighead, a Radford University student seeking a master’s degree in social work; Dareous Davis, working toward a bachelor of science in nursing degree at Radford University; and Renata Hairston, who is studying to be a licensed massage Therapist at Mountain Gateway Community College.

Pictured (l to r): RHEC Foundation Development Officer Kaitlyn Van Buskirk, Jessica Clervoi, Renata Hairston, Dareous Davis, Alberta Craighead, Bridgette Bentley and Larry Jackson, Director of External Affairs, Appalachian Power.



With the help and design services of Access Advertising + PR, foundation staff and counsel created a new logo and brand guide for the RHEC Foundation.



Kaitlyn Van Buskirk
Development Officer,
RHEC Foundation

Dear Community of Friends,

Thank you for supporting the Roanoke Higher Education Center (RHEC) Foundation. Your donations are creating a better quality of life for our students and helping us create an educated and skilled workforce that contributes to our region's economic vitality. The RHEC Foundation celebrated many successes over the past 12 months, and your generosity played an essential role in making our progress a reality. We have established the W. Heywood Fralin Endowment Fund, granted five scholarship awards to deserving students, executed our first major fundraising event, expanded our marketing efforts, and increased our corporate sponsors and individual donors. Thank you for your contributions and support of the RHEC Foundation and our member institutions. Together, we will help individuals succeed in the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Kaitlyn



Support Current Fundraising Priorities

Help us reach our fundraising goals by supporting current fundraising priorities.
Together, we can make a difference in our community!

- **Career & Workforce Training Center** to assist students and workers, employees and employers in the region.
- **RHEC Scholarship Fund** to provide financial aid to deserving students.
- **Innovation Fund** to provide seed money to encourage and incentivize new program development in collaboration with partner institutions.
- **Support the RHEC Mission.**

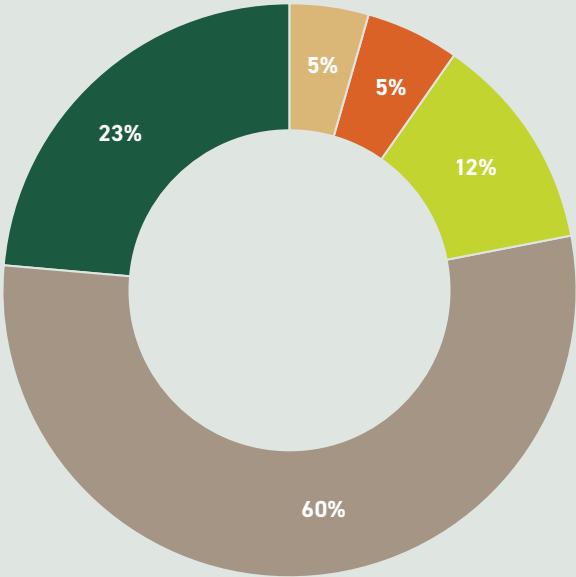
We are honored to recognize and thank the following donors who made generous contributions and gifts in kind to the RHEC Foundation during the 2022 fiscal year.

Thank You for Your Support!

419 West	Freedom First Credit Union	Charles Price
Access Advertising + PR	J. Randolph Garrett III	Punch Boutique
AEP Foundation	George's Flowers	Mary Jean Redon Levin
Robert Archer	Gladheart Wine	Reid's Fine Furnishings
Jeanne Armentrout	Maryellen F. Goodlatte	Roanoke Symphony Orchestra
Jack Avis	Catherine Greenberg	Salem Ice Cream Parlor
Avis Construction Company, Inc.	Virginia Haskins	Salem Red Sox
Azar Jewelry and Estate Sales	Tammy Hogue	Michelle Swanson
Kathy Baske Young	Lynn Hunt	Tacos Rojas
Margaret S. Beazley	J & J Fashions	The Conner Group
Bella Muse Photography	Jacks	The Coop
Bernard's Gastropub & Eatery	Carla James	The Fresh Market
Beth Hill Art Studio	Jewells Fine Jewelry	The Gift Niche
Billy's Roanoke	Gordon Jones	The Knittin' Coop
Bison Printing, Inc.	Joran's Interior Design	The Lighting Ninja
Blue Ridge Beverage Co., Inc.	Kent Jewelers	The Maroon Door
Bobby's Hot & Cheesy	Ladles & Linens	The Orvis Company
Bonomo's	Marjorie Lanford	The Roanoke Times / Lee Media
Carilion Clinic	Melissa Lubin	Three Lil' Pigs BBQ
chocolatepaper	M. Robinson Ladies Fine Clothing	Town Center Tap House
Corbin's Confections	Mama Maria's	Richard Turner
Corporate Image Barber Shop	Mast General Store	Two and a Half Sisters
Custom Originals in Stained Glass	Jim McAden	United Way of the Roanoke Valley
Davidsons	Thomas McKeon	ValleyStar Credit Union
Barbara Dickinson	Meg's and Garrett's	Kaitlyn Van Buskirk
Kay Dunkley	Mel Wheeler, Inc.	Lori Van Curen
Bernadine Dykes	Mill Mountain Theatre	Vintage Cellar
Sen. John Edwards	Jaime Miller	Walkabout Outfitters
Elderberry's	Montano's International Gourmet	Wasena City Tap Room & Grill
Fink's Jewelers	Tyler Nguyen	Weekend by TBC
John Fishwick Jr.	Sam Oakey IV	Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black
Fortunato	PG Sophie Holdings, Inc	Michael Wray
W. Heywood Fralin	Pinnacle Bank	
Frame Connection	Present Thyme	

Donations

\$10,000 and above	5%
\$5,000 – \$9,999	5%
\$2,500 – \$4,999	12%
\$1,000 – \$2,499	55%
\$50 – \$999	23%





The Roanoke Higher Education Center Foundation hosted its first major fundraising event at The Glen on Glenburn Farms on Saturday, August 27, 2022.

"Brews & Bubbles" featured local craft spirits, delicious food, live music, a photo booth, and a silent and live auction. A special thanks to everyone who helped make this event a reality and a success.

The work of the Foundation supports the Roanoke Higher Education Authority to provide educational opportunities for the citizens of our region.

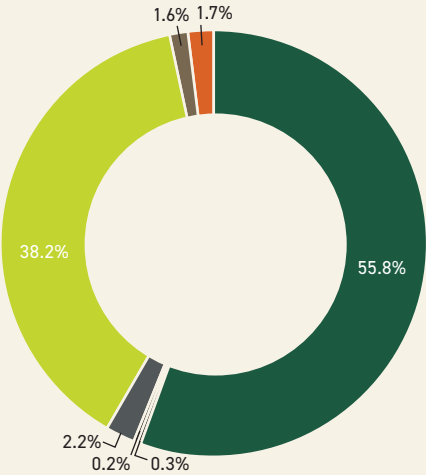


FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET INFORMATION

Revenue for Fiscal Year 2022

Grand total all sources = \$3.81 million

(\$3.21 Operating & Nonoperating + \$0.60 Capital State Aid)



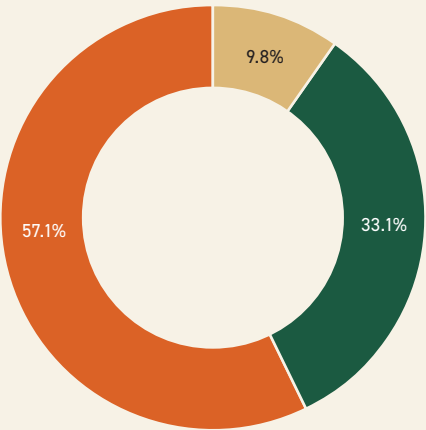
Nonoperating revenues total \$1.81 million:

State Appropriation	55.8%
Local Government	0.3%
Interest Income	0.2%

Operating revenues total \$1.40 million:

Day Rental & Training Initiatives	2.2%
Member & Commercial Leases	38.2%
Phone, Vending, Library & Misc.	1.6%
Testing Services	1.7%

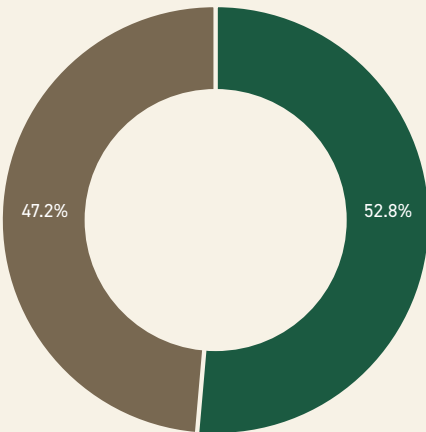
Capital State Aid Funded Revenues



Total \$0.60 million (\$598K):

Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund (HEETF)	9.8%
Capital Maintenance Reserve (CMR)	33.1%
Capital Outlay — Courtyard / Plaza	57.1%

Expenses for Fiscal Year 2022



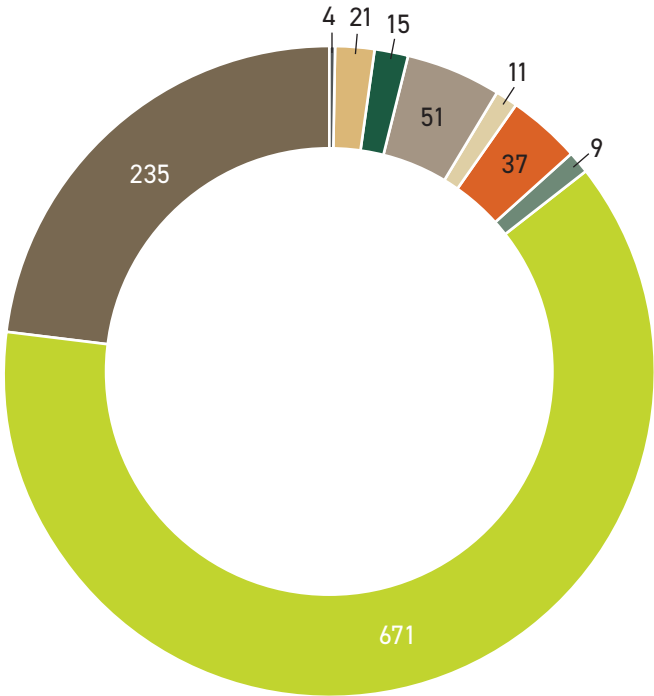
Grand total all sources = \$3.13 million

Personnel Services Operating	52.8%
Other Operating	47.2%
• Facility Services	30.1%
• Finance and Administration	5.6%
• Academic and Student Services	6.2%
• Information Technology	5.3%

PROGRAM COMPLETIONS FY 2022

Type of Program Completed

Doctoral	<1%
Master's	2%
Graduate Certificate	1%
Bachelor's	5%
Associate	1%
Certificate	4%
GED	1%
Workforce Training	63%
Non-Credit	23%
Total Completions	1,024



Day Rental Statistics

DAY RENTAL STATISTICS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

Total Number of Day Rental Events	137
Total Number of Clients Served (Unduplicated)	40
Total Number of Multiday Events	10
Total Number of New Clients	10
Total Number of Day Rental Program Participants	5,142

NUMBER OF EVENTS BY TYPE

Professional Continuing Education	25
Workforce Training	11
Civic Group Meetings	3
Professional Business Meetings	82
Testing	7
Other	9





The staff of the Roanoke Higher Education Center strives to provide members the best service and educational environment possible. In addition to a modern, functional, physical facility, we offer online resources to allow members access to event schedules, website traffic statistics, staff contacts, telephone and voicemail guidelines, crime reports, IT support, access card requests and more.

ROANOKE HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER STAFF

Beth Avis
Receptionist

Stephanie Coles
Receptionist

Kay Dunkley
Executive Director

Annalee Fairley
Library Clerk

Gary Hiler
HR Consultant

Celeste Holland
Receptionist

Lynn Hurt
Educational Testing Asst.

Habibo Isse
Educational Testing Asst.

Carla James
Senior Director of
Academic & Student Services

Christopher Jones
Maintenance Technician II

Tiffany Jones
Educational Testing Asst.

Debbie Lawson
Receptionist

Evan Malone
Senior Accountant/Reporting
Analyst

Kimberly Mattson
Student Success Center
Coordinator

Jeremiah McMillan
Director of Facility Services

Jeff Repass
Senior Maintenance Technician

Chris Shelton
Safety & Security Coordinator

Deborah Snellings-Pate
Educational Testing Center
Coordinator

Cynthia Spahr
Educational Testing Asst.

Michelle Swanson
Accountant

Alexandra Thacker
Executive Assistant

Eli Tilley
IT Technician

Nguyen Tran
IT System Administrator

Kaitlyn Van Buskirk
Development Officer

Lori Van Curen
Director of Finance &
Administration

Jessica Yopp
Library Associate

Looking Forward...



Kay Dunkley
Executive Director

- Dear Community of Friends,
- As this report reflects, RHEC has experienced a successful year, and we want to give you a sneak preview of what's to come:
- The front entrance will take on a facelift to include new walkway brick pavers, a renovated gazebo, a covered bike rack, and replacements of plantings and shrubs.
 - We will give a fresh new look to the restrooms in the main building, replace all antiquated fan coils and begin a phased-in approach to complete some interior painting.
 - Grant monies and contributions will allow us to move forward with our plans to create a Career and Workforce Training Center to assist students with career re-direction, internship referrals, connectivity to jobs in the region and much more.
 - Plans are underway to expand the physical space of the Educational Testing Center.
 - We will continue our efforts to meet the goals of our fundraising priorities.

To you, our community, we offer our sincere thanks for your continued support as we continue doing our good work.

Sincerely,
Kay Dunkley



MEMBER INSTITUTIONS



PARTNER INSTITUTIONS





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Roanoke, VA 24016
Phone: 540-767-6161
Email: info@education.edu
www.education.edu

HOURS:
Mon-Fri 7:00am-10:30pm
Saturday 7:00am-6:00pm
Sunday Closed

