

**ESSEX COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
January 23, 2024**

The members of the EDA were invited to attend a meeting between the Town of Tappahannock, Commonwealth Alliance of Rural Colleges – Carthan Currin, President and leadership from the VCU Strategic Enrollment Management and Student Success team – Dr. Hernan Buchelli, Interim VP for Strategic Enrollment and Management and Sr. Seth Sykes, Assoc. VP for Transfer Initiatives and Programs.

The meeting convened at 10:00 am on January 23, 2024 in the town office building.

Representing the EDA were:

Lisa Andrews - Chair
Bill Croxton
Tim Smith
Skip Weiss
David Holt

Others attending were:

Monte Gladding – Mayor, Tappahannock
Rob Akers – Board of Supervisors – Chair
Angela Gross – Essex County Public Schools

Ms. Andrews called our meeting to order at 10:05 and reported to all that the EDA had a quorum at the meeting and law required that we record minutes. She also informed the group that meeting would be recorded for the purposes of those minutes.

The overall discussion focused on where opportunities may exist for the parties to work together to encourage investment in Essex county and improve the workforce.

Topics included:

- Opportunities to partner with school systems and RCC for internship programs
- Leveraging the presence of the VCU Tappahannock Hospital to improve economic activity in Essex and Tappahannock
- Leveraging the county’s location on the Rappahannock River
 - Environmental tourism
 - Seafood industry
 - Water access
- Potential for locating pharmaceutical plants in Essex

There being no business at hand, the meeting adjourned at 11:20.

David Holt - Secretary

