

## **Radford University and New River Community College**

### **Executive Summary**

This proposal seeks resources to support the review of the historical data on transfer student challenges across Radford University and New River Community College. The intent is to develop the profile of transfer students within our region and identify barriers to successful enrollment, retention, progression, and graduation for students in the New River Valley. The grantees will examine student data to identify challenges to successful transfer to the four-year institution and design an intervention informed by the literature, the proposed analysis, and evidence-based practices. Process mapping of the transfer experience and development of intervention focused on engaging and supporting rural students by creating a sense of belonging and connection to support student success is the focus of the funded activities.

Population for data analysis will include SCHEV transfer students (2014-2019) using institutional data from both New River Community College and Radford University. The proposed intervention population, contingent on outcomes of analysis, will include students enrolled at New River Community College and Radford University in Fall 2022 through Fall 2023. This includes students continuing and newly admitted. All students enrolled in transfer pathway programs of study are being included to allow for group comparisons on success outcomes, including retention, progression, successful transfer, and graduation.

This proposal is consistent with goals stated within the Virginia Plan, specifically focused on equitable access and completion. Goal 1 within the Plan includes the following language: “Remove barriers to access and attainment especially for Black, Hispanic, Native American and rural students; students learning English as a second language; students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and students with disabilities.” The proposal seeks to identify barriers to student success for these populations within the New River Valley and connects Strategy 3 related to strengthening student support services for persistence and completion. Identification of challenges for transfers related to support services offers opportunities to engage with students across both institutions to build pathways to four-year degree completion.

This proposal also aligns with the Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative (RVHI). This initiative was created to address the educational attainment levels in the rural localities served by 14 of Virginia’s 23 community colleges, and New River Community College is part of this initiative. The primary goals of the RVHI are to reduce the number of rural residents who lack a high school diploma and double the number of rural residents with an associate degree or higher or other college certification.