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Subject: McDonnell: VA University Tuition Increases Lowest in Decade

Attachments: Virginia Tuition 8-13-12.pdf

FYI.

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2012/aug/09/tdmain01-va-college-costs-rise-less-ar-2118409/>

Va. college costs rise less

By Karin Kapsidelis

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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Virginia undergraduates heading to class this month will benefit from the lowest increase in tuition and mandatory fees in a decade, paying on average an additional \$384 at four-year institutions and \$165 at community colleges.

The average increase at all public colleges and universities is 4.1 percent this academic year for in-state students, compared with a 7.9 percent increase the previous year, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia said Wednesday.

Gov. Bob McDonnell released SCHEV's annual report at the student commons of Virginia Commonwealth University, a school he publicly reprimanded two years ago when the VCU board approved a 24 percent increase in tuition and fees.

In an event attended by students, education officials and lawmakers, McDonnell tied the lower increases to reforms and reinvestment resulting from the 2011 Higher Education Opportunity Act, also known as "Top Jobs" legislation for the effort to link diplomas to employment.

"I just wanted to be here to say this reform is working," said McDonnell, who had pressured universities in the spring to keep increases below 3 percent.

According to SCHEV's report, an in-state student living off campus will pay on average \$9,919 at four-year public institutions for the 2012-13 academic year. With room and board, a student will pay \$18,617 for a total increase of \$733.

The percentage increase for out-of-state students was about the same, but they will pay considerably more. Their average charge with room and board is \$33,843.

SCHEV's report credited the additional \$150 million the General Assembly approved for instructional programs for the budget that covers July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2014. The additional funds came at a crucial time because the infusion coincided with the end of federal stimulus funds that universities had used to mitigate tuition increases, SCHEV said.

The average annual tuition increase at four-year institutions over the past 10 years is 9.1 percent in constant dollars and 7.1 percent at two-year colleges, primarily the result of double-digit tuition increases that came in years of steep cuts in state funds for higher education.

But despite progress in holding down costs this year, the SCHEV report details the bite college expenses still take out of the average family's budget: The average total charge for an in-state undergraduate student at a four-year institution, including room and board and other expenses, is estimated to be 45 percent of per capita disposable income.

While room and board charges increased by 4.2 percent for this year, those charges will account for almost 50 percent of the total price of a college education for students living on campus. The average charge for room and board is \$8,698 at four-year institutions.

Charges for in-state community college students average \$3,735 for the upcoming academic year.

At the two-year Richard Bland College, students will pay \$4,409, an increase of \$226, if they live off campus. With room and board, the total charge at the junior college in Petersburg is \$14,079.

The most expensive school is the College of William and Mary at \$22,888, including room and board, followed by Virginia Military Institute at \$21,568, the University of Virginia at \$21,425, and Christopher Newport University at \$20,300.

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