Preparing Tomorrow’s Workforce Through Partnership with Business/Industry

ADVISORY COMMITTEE HANDBOOK 2016

RESPIRATORY CARE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

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Gallatin, TN 37066
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President’s Welcome

Thank you for your interest in participating on our Advisory Committee. Our faculty and staff rely on seasoned input from a range of community professionals to ensure that Volunteer State Community College has the latest information on which to base our program decisions.

We depend on our advisory committee members to share with the College the latest trends in the area’s workforce. Advisory committee members are also active participants in preparing our students for internships, service experiences and other pre-employment activities. Occasionally, we may also ask that you participate in program or college accreditation processes. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, advisory committee members help share with the community the compelling story of our high quality career/technical education programs.

This handbook was developed based on faculty, staff, and advisory committee input. The purpose of the handbook is to align the advisory committee process with our College vision. Your active participation will help us achieve that goal.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students of Volunteer State Community College, we thank you for your interest and involvement in this very important endeavor.

Jerry L. Faulkner, Ph.D.
President
Vision for Career/Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committees

- assist in positioning the College as a leader in regional education, workforce training, and economic development programming
- assist the College in developing mission-consistent educational and training solutions for area businesses and industries
- assist the College in effectively responding to community input regarding the determination of educational programs and curriculum
- assist the College in meeting the standards and expectations of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR), the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and the respective program-specific accrediting, certifying, and approval agencies

Overview of CTE Advisory Committees

The career/technical advisory committees’ primary purpose is to advise and serve as the link between the College and the area’s business and industry community. Volunteer State’s career/technical programs are designed to prepare completers for entry-level positions in a variety of fields in the workforce, as well as preparing individuals currently in the workforce seeking career-advancement and/or enhancement training.

The advisory committees are groups of business and industry experts selected by the College to serve in an advisory capacity to the College’s career/technical programs. Properly functioning advisory committees help the College administration, faculty and staff members in ensuring that programs reflect the changing needs and interests of areas citizens, the business and industrial workforce, and the communities they represent. The committees shall be advisory only, having no administrative authority, and is not created to take away any of the rights and/or privileges of the College administration and program staff members.

The administration of Volunteer State Community College actively supports the important role of advisory committees. The College values the consultative nature of advisory committees and recognizes the significance of the advice, insight and feedback to faculty, administration and staff.
regarding the alignment of college programs with the area’s workforce needs. Advisory committees are called upon to be active participants in the program evaluation and effectiveness processes and curriculum review. Committee members also play a major role in assisting the program staff in the identification and development of clinical and internship training sites, and provide a vital service to the College by identifying and soliciting external sources of funding and support for the development of new programs and expansion and enhancement of existing programs.

**CTE Advisory Committee Structure and General Guidelines**

Committee membership represents a broad range of community leaders from business, industry, healthcare, government, and service agencies. The number of committee members varies with the specific program; however, every attempt is made to select a representative cross section for each program area. Many committees have a lay Chairperson who is elected by the committee members or appointed by the College. In addition to the appointed members of an advisory committee, the Division Dean and faculty responsible for the program, as well as the Vice President for Academic Affairs, attend committee meetings. On most committees, student representatives also serve as members.

Members are typically appointed for one to three years and may be re-appointed for additional terms. Service is, of course, voluntary on the part of appointed committee members. Each advisory committee shall meet at least once a year. Special meetings may be called by the program staff or chairperson.

The majority of the duties and responsibilities of committee members are consistent from one committee to another. In some cases, however; external factors, such as variations in the levels of emphasis of a particular accreditation standard by an agency, may impact the actual duties and responsibilities of the members of that committee. A detailed listing of the primary duties and responsibilities related to the committee to which you have been appointed are outlined in Section 2 of this handbook.
Section 1. Respiratory Care Technology Program

Program Description

Respiratory Care Therapists are typically employed within the hospital, clinic and DME setting, as well as other diagnostic labs. Certified Respiratory Therapists (CRT) and Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRT) work under the direction of a physician and provide medical treatment to patients who suffer with chronic lung problems such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema. They also work with victims of heart attack, accident victims and others with breathing problems.

After fulfilling the college admission requirements, students are encouraged to complete the general education courses as outlined prior to beginning the program. Students may additionally complete AHC 115* and RPC 101* as recommended optional courses. Students are required to submit an Application to Health Sciences Careers by the March 1st deadline. Formal screening for program admission is completed in mid-March. Seating is limited. Residency may apply. Students are required to maintain GPA of 2.5 or higher for interview purposes. The RPC program is a total of 3.5 full-time semesters, with some courses completed on-line.

The Respiratory Care degree program consists of 14 months of study (after completion of general education/prerequisite requirements) and graduates receive an A.A.S. in Respiratory Care Technology. Graduates are then eligible to sit for a National Credentialing Exam to become a Registered Respiratory Therapist.

The “CRT to RRT Bridge” program allows Certified Respiratory Therapists the opportunity to earn the A.A.S. Respiratory Care Technology degree after completion of the general education/prerequisite courses. Upon successful completion and conferral of the degree, graduates are then eligible to sit for a National Credentialing Exam to become a Registered Respiratory Therapist. Application deadline is March 1st for this program.

Prerequisites for the “CRT to RRT” Bridge Program
A minimum of 48 hours successfully completed in Respiratory Care from an accredited college or credentialed by the NBRC as a Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT). Extra consideration for acceptance will be provided to those who are currently working in the
field of Respiratory Care. Very Important: CRT to RRT bridge applicants are responsible for contacting the NBRC to ensure eligibility requirements are met.

**Program Admission/Requirements for the “CRT to RRT” bridge program**

Application deadline is March 1st of the year the student wishes to enter advanced training for the RRT credential. After being formally accepted to the college, students must an Application to the Health Sciences Respiratory Care Technology program faculty. Screening into the program will take place in April/May. Applicants must complete all general education/prerequisites prior to entering the program. Students must pass a Criminal Background check and drug screen indicated in the Clinical Policy and Procedure for the program.

**Selection for “CRT to RRT” bridge program will be based on the following**

- **Priority One Students**: Graduate of a Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) accredited Respiratory Care entry-level program who is credentialed by the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC) as a Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) on the first attempt at passing the CRT exam.

- **Priority Two Students**: Graduate of a CoARC accredited entry-level Respiratory Care program who is credentialed as a CRT by the NBRC on an attempt other than the first attempt at passing.

- **Priority Three Students**: Students who have completed a minimum of 48 hours in Respiratory Care training and have earned the CRT credential by the NBRC.

Note: Special consideration will be granted to applicants who have completed the degree program at VSCC, who have completed additional education programs and/or work in the acute care setting. Program Acceptance Priority Given to Instate Residents may apply to both the degree and CRT to RRT bridge programs.

In an effort to comply with the recommendations of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, some healthcare facilities and agencies utilized by the College for clinical training require that each student undergo and pass a drug screen prior to participating in clinical rotations. Each student, at his/her expense, is responsible for acquiring a drug screen and authorizing the submission of results to the College. **No student will be permitted to participate in specific clinical rotations until the results have been received, reviewed, and accepted by the College.** The specific type of drug screen and the due date will be provided to the students by the Director of
Clinical Education during the summer semester.

In an effort to comply with the recommendations of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the majority of the major healthcare facilities and agencies utilized by the College for clinical training require that each student undergo and pass a student background check prior to participating in clinical rotations. Each student, at his/her expense, is responsible for acquiring the student background check report and authorizing the submission of results to the College.

**No student will be permitted to participate in a clinical rotation until the results have been received, reviewed, and accepted by the College. Failure to submit to and pass the required student background check, report will result in the student being terminated from the program.** Information regarding outside agencies that provide background check services as well as the due date of the checks will be provided to the students by the Director of Clinical Education after the selection process has been completed.

**Accreditation**

The A.A.S.-Respiratory Care Technology program and the bridge program for CRT to RRT are both fully accredited by the CoARC.

The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care  
CoARC Program # 200399 – Registered Respiratory Therapist Program  
1248 Harwood Road  
Bedford, Texas 76021-4244
Volunteer State Community College is fully accredited by:

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097
Office - 404-679-4500

Program Faculty/Staff

Program Director: Kim Christmon, M.Ed., R.R.T.
Associate Professor of Respiratory Care
kim.christmon@volstate.edu

M.Ed., Tennessee State University
B.S., Tennessee State University
CRT, National Board for Respiratory Care
RRT, National Board for Respiratory Care

Director of Clinical Education: Mallory Higginbotham, A.A.S., R.R.T.
Instructor of Respiratory Care
mallory.higginbotham@volstate.edu

A.A.S., Volunteer State Community College
B.S., Trevecca Nazarene University
CRT, National Board for Respiratory Care
RRT, National Board for Respiratory Care
RPC Clinical Affiliates and Advisory Committee Members

**Bordeaux Long Term Care (Linde-RSS)**
1414 County Road
Nashville, TN 37218
615-712-2460

Unit Manager: Jodi Perry

**Cookeville Regional Medical Center**
142 West Fifth Street
Cookeville, TN 38501
931-528-2541

Director: Danette Gardenhire

**Cumberland Medical Center**
421 South Main Street
Crossville, TN 38555
931-456-7268

Director: Timothy Henion

**Dekalb Community Hospital**
520 West Main Street
Smithville, Tennessee 37166
615-215-5491

Director: Shannon Barnett

**Gateway Medical Center**
651 Dunlop Lane
Clarksville, TN 37040
931-502-1000

Manager: Mike White

**Harton Regional Medical Center**
1801 N. Jackson Street
Tullahoma, TN 37388
931-393-7966

Director: Chuck Bell

**Livingston Regional Hospital**
315 Oak Street
Livingston, TN 38570
931-823-5611, Operator

Director: Stacey Netherton

**Macon County General Hospital**
P.O. Box 378
204 Medical Drive
Lafayette, Tennessee 37083

Director: Pam Phillips-Meado Phone: 615-666-2147

**Nashville General Hospital**
1808 Albion St.
Nashville, TN 37208

Director: Sharon Pithus Phone: 615-341-4100

**NorthCrest Medical Center**
Clinical Coordinator: Latoya Hicks Phone: 615-384-1569
100 NorthCrest Drive
Springfield, TN 37172

**Saint Thomas Midtown Hospital**
Manager: John Freeman
2000 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37236
Phone: 615-284-8876, RT

**Saint Thomas Rutherford Hospital**
Supervisor: Vickie Macri
1700 Medical Center Parkway
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Phone: 615-396-4368

**Saint Thomas West Hospital**
Manager: Derrick Cox
4220 Harding Rd,
Nashville, TN. 37205
615-222-6742

**Smith County Memorial Hospital**
Supervisor: Tiffany Dillehay
158 Hospital Drive
Carthage, TN 37030
615-735-1560, Operator (x183)

**Stones River Hospital**
Director: Shannon Barnett
324 Doolittle Road
Woodbury, TN 37190
615-563-7254

**Sumner Regional Medical Center**
Director: Kim Kermeen
555 Hartsville Pike
Gallatin, TN. 37066
615-328-5570

**Tristar Centennial Medical Center**
Director: Laura Asherbranner
2300 Patterson St.
Nashville, TN. 37203
615-342-1625

**Tristar Hendersonville Medical Center**
Director: Louise Collins
355 New Shackle Island Rd.
Hendersonville, TN 37075
615-338-2600, RT Dept.

**Tristar Horizon Medical Center**
Director: Jerry Churchwell
111 Highway 70E
Dickson, TN 37055
615-441-2388

**Tristar Skyline Medical Center**
Director: Angie Hodges
3441 Dickerson Pike
Nashville, TN. 37207
615-769-4271
Tristar Southern Hills Medical Center
Manager: Chris Sellars
391 Wallace Road
Nashville, TN. 37211
615-781-4625 RT Dept.

Tristar StoneCrest Medical Center
Director: Denise Moland, RN
200 StoneCrest Boulevard
Smyrna, TN 37167
615-768-2000, Operator

Tristar Summit Medical Center
Director: Charlie Brooks
5655 Frist Blvd.
Hermitage, TN. 37076
615-316-3431, Office

Trousdale Medical Center
Director: Cindy Keene
500 Church Street
Hartsville, TN 37074
615-374-2221, Operator

University Medical Center
Director: Troy Hamm
1411 W. Baddour Pkwy.
Lebanon, TN. 37087
615-443-2520

Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital
Manager: Cheryl Burney-Jones
2200 Children’s Way
Nashville, TN 37232-9775
615-715-9014

Vanderbilt Stallworth Rehabilitation Hospital
Supervisor: Tammy Ellis
2201 Capers Ave.
Nashville, TN. 37212
615-963-4415

Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Manager: Anna Ambrose
1211 Medical Center Drive
Nashville, TN. 37232
615-322-0984, Office

Veterans Health Administration
Director: Gregg Garrett
1310 24th Ave. S.
Nashville, TN. 37212
615-327-4751
Curriculum

General Education:
BIOL 2010 Human Anatomy and Physiology I, or
CHEM 1030 Fundamentals of Chemistry I, or
PHYS 1030 Introductory Physics, or
PSCI 1030 Intro to Physical Science 4
ENGL 1010 English Composition I 3
FA/HUM Fine Arts/Humanities 3
MATH MATH 1010 or 1110 3
Social Science Any 3-hour course (except GEOG) 3

Total General Education 16

Other Required / Recommended Courses:
CIS 100 Students must pass the Computer Competency Exam (230-3484) or complete INFS 1010 (3)
AHC 115 Medical Terminology (recommended) 3
RPC 101 Introduction to Respiratory Care (recommended) 2

Respiratory Care Major Core:
Maymester RPC 220 ABG Analysis and Physiology I 4
+ Summer – 10 weeks
RPC 201 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care I 4
RPC 229 Mechanical Ventilation I 4
12
Fall – 14 weeks
RPC 202 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care II 4
RPC 230 Mechanical Ventilation II 4
RPC 281C Clinical Practice I 6
14
Spring (#online) – 14 weeks
RPC 203 Fundamentals of Respiratory Care III 3
RPC 260# Pulmonary Pathology 3
RPC 290 National Certification Review 4
RPC 289 Current Topics in Respiratory Care I 1
RPC 282C Clinical Practice II 4
15
Summer (#online) – 14 weeks
RPC 204# Fundamentals of Respiratory Care IV 4
RPC 283C Clinical Practice III 4
RPC 225# Arterial Blood Gas Analysis and Physiology II 4
RPC 291 National Registry Review 3
15

TOTAL RPC CORE CREDIT HOURS 56
TOTAL DEGREE HOURS 72
Courses

**RPC 101: Introduction to Respiratory Care**
This introductory course is designed to present an overview of the role of the respiratory care practitioner. Content areas to include ethics, the history of respiratory care, professional organizations and opportunities. Independent research required.

**RPC 201: Fundamentals of Respiratory Care I**
The theory of all basic equipment excluding ventilators is presented including topics on medical gas therapy, humidity and aerosol therapy, microbiology, cleaning and sterilization, pharmacology, and physiological measurement and monitoring devices.

**RPC 202: Fundamentals of Respiratory Care II**
A continuation of Fundamentals of Respiratory Care I to include: carbon dioxide transport and acid base balance, bronchopulmonary clearance and maintenance techniques, electrolyte and fluid balance, pulmonary function testing and an introduction to neonatal and pediatric respiratory care.

**RPC 203: Fundamentals of Respiratory Care III**
A continuation of Fundamentals of Respiratory Care II, to include aspects of neonatology, non-invasive monitoring, invasive hemodynamic monitoring and basic EKG interpretation.

**RPC 204: Fundamentals of Respiratory Care IV**
An in-depth study of the physiologic and technologic principles of non-invasive and invasive monitoring, pulmonary diagnostic lab testing, chest radiograph, pulmonary rehabilitation nutrition, clinical laboratory studies and respiratory monitoring in the intensive care unit.

**RPC 220: Arterial Blood Gas Analysis and Physiology I**
A study of the heart, lung and renal organ system. To cover the respiratory system as it relates to ventilatory mechanics, gas transport and exchange, acid-base physiology, neurological and chemical control of respiration, fluid and electrolyte balance, ventilation and perfusion.

**RPC 225: Arterial Blood Gas Analysis and Physiology II**
A study of Advanced Life Support including arterial blood gas management, hemodynamics, airway management, dysrhythmia recognition, and advanced pharmacology. This course will encompass adult, pediatric and neonatal patient management.
RPC 229: Fundamentals of Mechanical Ventilation I
A study of the theory and techniques of mechanical ventilation including selection, use, modification, and care of mechanical ventilators.

RPC 230: Fundamentals of Mechanical Ventilation II
A continuation of Fundamentals of Mechanical Ventilation I, to include airway management, patient-ventilator systems, patient-ventilator management and equipment care. Topics to also include technologies utilized with modern mechanical ventilator systems.

RPC 260: Pulmonary Pathology
A survey of the common pulmonary diseases most often encountered in the clinical setting; illustrations of the anatomical changes in the lungs caused by the disease process, discussions of the etiology, clinical manifestations, and general treatment.

RPC 289: Current Topics in Respiratory Care
This course will introduce the student to writing techniques specific to scientific literature and research. Content areas to include APA writing style and the development of a research paper as well as an oral presentation to the class at the end of the semester.

RPC 281 C: Clinical Practice I
Supervised clinical application of skills developed in previous RPC courses to include humidity and aerosol therapy, gas administration devices, equipment cleaning and sterilization, bronchial hygiene techniques, arteriotomy and hyperinflation therapy. Supplemented by medical director instruction and required seminars.

RPC 282 C: Clinical Practice II
Supervised clinical application of skills developed in previous RPC courses to include airway management, arteriotomy, and mechanical ventilation. A continuation of the medical director instruction and required seminars as indicated.

RPC 283 C: Clinical Practice III
Supervised clinical application of skills developed in previous RPC courses to include non-invasive and invasive cardiopulmonary monitoring, neonatal-pediatric respiratory care, diagnostic testing, quality assurance and the practice of critical care management. Supplemented by medical director instruction and required seminars.
**RPC 290: National Certification Review**
This course is designed to prepare the student for the National Entry Level Certification Examination. The successful completion of this course requires passing a mock national certification exam as the final examination.

**RPC 291: National Registry Review**
This course is designed to prepare the student for the National Registry Examination. Successful completion of this course requires passing a mock written registry examination and a mock clinical simulations examination.
Section 2. Respiratory Care Technology Program
Advisory Committee

Responsibilities/Activities of the Committee

RPC Advisory Committee members assist the College in program development and enhancement, help to set both short and long-range program goals, and assist the College in better understanding and interpreting community and employer needs.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Advisory Committee Chair

The Advisory Committee Chair shall be elected by a majority of the advisory committee members. It is strongly recommended that the Chair should be from outside the College or University and a member from within the communities of interest. The Chair will ensure that the Committee provides coordination, advice and support for the program by assisting with the following:

- Conduct advisory committee meetings at least once annually
- Conduct special advisory committee meetings as necessary
- Appoint sub-committees, Ad Hoc committees or task forces for special projects
- Act as a liaison to community organizations interested in the support of respiratory care
- Ensure proper documentation of advisory committee meeting minutes
- Development of meeting agenda

Duties and Responsibilities of the Advisory Committee

An advisory committee is a group of persons who are chosen from the communities of interest to advise educators regarding an educational program. Committee members should provide advice and support to the program through regular attendance at scheduled meetings and participation in program issues throughout the year.

The primary advisory committee goals and objectives and associated activities are as follows:

Curriculum and Instruction
• review and suggest revisions to course content
• compare/contrast curriculum with the needs of the profession
• identify and explore use of new technologies
• advise on labor market needs and trends
• review, recommend, and assist in obtaining instructional materials

Program Review

• review and recommend program goals, objectives, and evaluative benchmarks
• participate in program evaluation
• compare student performance standards to business/industry standards
• assess, recommend, and/or provide equipment and facilities
• participate in annual and long-term program planning and development
• assist in identifying new clinical sites/teaching locations
• assist in accreditation activities

Recruitment and Job Placement

• assist in recruiting new staff and potential students
• notify program faculty of area job opportunities for graduates
• provide or assist in obtaining cooperative work experiences, internships/externships, or service-based learning opportunities for students
• assist students in developing resumes and interviewing skills
• assist with career/job fairs and related activities
• assist in employment of graduates/program completers
• assist in conducting placement follow-ups with graduates and employers

Student Activities and Organizations

• assist students with career development opportunities
• organize/conduct workplace tours

Graduate and Faculty Professional Development
- support faculty participation in retraining and back to-industry technical skill building
- identify and support professional development opportunities for faculty and graduates

Community/Public Relations

- recommend the program to employers, community, and the media
- participate in student and faculty recognition activities
- promote special College and program events
- assist in developing and implementing program marketing plans

Resources

- participate in annual review of program’s resource needs
- identify external sources of program funding and other levels of needed support
- provide tours and field trips, job shadowing experiences, and speakers
- leverage community resources and broker community partnerships
- assist in identifying and addressing special program needs (i.e., scholarships, equipment, supplies, external funding support for program expansion, etc.)
Evaluations

- participate in the annual evaluation processes regarding both program and advisory committee effectiveness; assist in the identification and implementation of any corrective and/or enhancement action plans
- participate in an annual review of graduate placement data, employer satisfaction survey results, and graduate licensure/certification results

**General RPC Committee Information**

**Date:** 3/12/2016  
**Meeting time:** 1:00 pm

**Fall Semester Meeting**  
- Tentative Topics:
  - Curriculum Update
  - Program Status
  - Program evaluation Report
  - Budget planning
  - Strategic initiatives

**Spring Semester Meeting**  
- Tentative Topics:
  - Graduation
  - Placement
  - Advisory Committee evaluation process

**Location:** Volunteer State Community College  
Wallace Health Science Building North  
Room 110

**Frequency of meetings:** 1-2 times a year contingent upon community and programmatic needs

**Special called meetings:** Only when necessary

**Meet for student selection:** The Advisory Committee receives invitations to attend and participate in all student selection meetings

**Special Projects and Areas of Emphasis for 2016**

**Clinical Site Enhancement:** Ongoing  
**Self-study:** Completed March 2016  
**Site Visit:** Within next 5 months  
**Graduation:** August
Section 3. General College Information

History
The establishment of a state community college at Gallatin involved the cooperative work of many civic leaders and citizens of Sumner County as well as State officials. A unified proposal for a college was presented by Robert L. Wendling, leading a Sumner County delegation, to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission in Nashville on September 11, 1967.

This local initiative anticipated future General Assembly action to authorize and appropriate funds. Upon the recommendation of State Education Commissioner J. H. Warf, Governor Buford Ellington presented the college legislation to the 1969 General Assembly, and it was adopted. Following this action, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission on June 2, 1969 authorized the State Board of Education to establish a community college in Sumner County.

Commissioner Warf and his staff members, T. Wesley Pickel and Hal R. Ramer, accompanied by THEC Chairman John R. Long, Jr., and THEC executive John Folger, visited Sumner County to inspect four prospective sites provided by the county. City and county civic leaders hosted the visit. On July 29, 1969, Commissioner Warf notified Sumner County Judge I. C. McMahan that a 100-acre tract bought the property from Louis Green, Sr., and deeded it to the State on December 4, 1969. In accordance with State Board of Education requirements, the County also provided $250,000 toward initial construction costs, the City of Gallatin agreed to extend utilities to the site, and the City and County agreed in perpetuity to protect surrounding land zoning and area environmental conditions compatible to a college, along with the provision of police and fire safety services.

On May 8, 1970, Dr. Hal Reed Ramer was elected by the State Board of Education as the founding president of the newly authorized college, effective July 1, 1970. For the preceding seven years, he had been assistant state commissioner for higher education. President Ramer proposed to the Board and Chairman Warf that the new college be named Volunteer State Community College, and this was approved by the board on July 2, 1970. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the first four buildings, Hardaway Construction Company, contractor, were held on November 5, 1970. Pending completion and occupancy of the initial campus facilities in early 1972, temporary operations were located in the Cordell Hull Hotel building in Gallatin. Utilizing the hotel and the educational facilities of several Gallatin churches, the College began instruction in the fall of 1971 with 581 students. In
1972, the General Assembly established the Tennessee Board of Regents as the governing board for the State University and Community College System, at which time the central control of the College transferred from the State Board of Education to the Regents System. On February 1, 2003, Dr. Warren R. Nichols became Volunteer State’s second President. Dr. Jerry L. Faulkner is the current president.

The College has experienced phenomenal growth in enrollment, curricula, staff, program, public service, facilities, and quality, into this, the thirty-fourth year of its operation. The main campus of Volunteer State is now comprised of sixteen buildings. Numerous off-campus operations extend the College's instruction and public service roles throughout its multi-county area. Since its 1971 inception through the current academic year, more than one hundred thousand persons have attended the College.

**Statement of Mission**

Volunteer State Community College is a public, comprehensive community college offering associate degrees and technical certificates. The institution is committed to excellence in serving the citizens of northern Middle Tennessee. Volunteer State provides quality innovative educational programs; strengthens community and workforce partnerships; addresses the needs of a global society; promotes cultural and economic development; inspires lifelong learning and prepares students for successful careers, university transfer, and meaningful civic participation through the use of exemplary faculty and staff.

**Degrees**

The College offers Associate Degree career programs in business, early childhood education and health sciences, plus university parallel programs in over 50 major areas.

- Associate of Applied Science-designed for job entry
- Associate of Arts-designed for transfer
- Associate of Science-designed for transfer

**Certificates**

The College offers a number of Technical Certificate programs specifically designed for job-entry skill development and workforce skill enhancement.