

# June Quarterly Board of Visitors Meeting

June 2026



**Radford**  
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## Meeting Book - June 2026 Quarterly Board of Visitors Meeting

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Friday, June 5

9:00 a.m.

Board of Visitors Quarterly Meeting

Call to Order and Opening Comments	Mr. Tyler Lester
Approval of Agenda	Mr. Tyler Lester
Approval of Minutes	Mr. Tyler Lester
President's Report	Dr. Bret Danilowicz
Faculty Senate President Update on Shared Governance	Dr. Matt Close
Photo and Break	
Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee Report	Dr. Betty Jo Foster
Business Affairs and Audit Committee Report	Ms. Jeanne Armentrout
Enrollment Management and Brand Equity Committee Report	Ms. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert
External Engagement Committee Report	Ms. Betsy Beamer
Student Affairs and Athletics Committee Report	Mr. David A. Smith
Report on the Radford University Foundation	Mr. George Mendiola, Jr.
Closed Session	Mr. Tyler Lester
Executive Committee Report	Mr. Tyler Lester
Rector and Vice-Rector Discussion and Vote	Mr. David A. Smith
Report to the Board of Visitors from the Student Representative to the Board	Ms. Dominika Butler
Resolutions of Appreciation	Mr. Tyler Lester
Other Business	Mr. Tyler Lester

**Announcements**

Mr. Tyler Lester

2026 and 2027 Dates

2026

July Retreat 19th, 20th, and 21st

September 17th and 18th

December 3rd and 4th

2027

March 11th and 12th

June 3rd and 4th

July Retreat 18th, 19th, and 20th

September 16th and 17th

December 2nd and 3rd

**Adjournment**

Mr. Tyler Lester

**Board Members**

Mr. Tyler Lester, Rector

Mrs. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert, Vice Rector

Mr. Dale S. Ardizzone

Ms. Jeanne S. Armentrout

Ms. Betsy D. Beamer

Ms. Joann Craig

Ms. Callie M. Dalton

Mr. William C. Davis

Dr. Betty Jo Foster

Mrs. Mary Anne Holbrook

Mr. George Mendiola Jr.

Mr. Chris Settle

Mr. David A. Smith

Mr. Jonathan Sweet

Mr. James C. Turk

**Timing Disclaimer**

Please note that all start times are approximate only. The Board meeting either may begin before or after the listed approximate start time as Board members are ready to proceed.

# Meeting Materials



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# Executive Committee

June 2026



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## Executive Committee

A change is being proposed to three 2027 Board of Visitors meetings.

The first 2027 meeting would occur on February 25 (committee meetings) and February 26 (quarterly meeting). This is a change from March 11 and 12, 2027.

The second 2027 meeting would occur May 20 (committee meetings) and May 21 (quarterly meeting). This is a change from June 3 and 4, 2027.

The 2027 retreat would transition to July 25-27 from July 18-20.



Radford University Board of Visitors Resolution

Adopt Bylaws

June 5, 2026

**WHEREAS**, Code of Virginia §2.2-3708.3(D), amended by the General Assembly in 2024, requires the Board of Visitors to adopt, at least once annually, the Bylaws or a policy that complies with the requirements within the Code section for members participating remotely or for all-virtual meetings;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Visitors approves the current Bylaws, specifically Section 3 (E) Individual Member(s) Participation via Electronic Communications and Section 3 (F) All-Virtual Meetings as written and acknowledges they meet the stated requirements.



**Radford University Board of Visitors  
Resolution**

**Performance Plan for 2024-2025 President Bret Danilowicz**

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved**, that the Board of Visitors hereby approves payment for the completion of President Bret Danilowicz's 2025-2026 Performance Plan, as discussed in closed session on June 5, 2025, and that said performance plan pursuant to Section E of the Employment Agreement with President Bret Danilowicz, dated December 7, 2021, is considered a personnel record.

# Student Representative Report

**Dominika Butler**

Student Representative

June 2026



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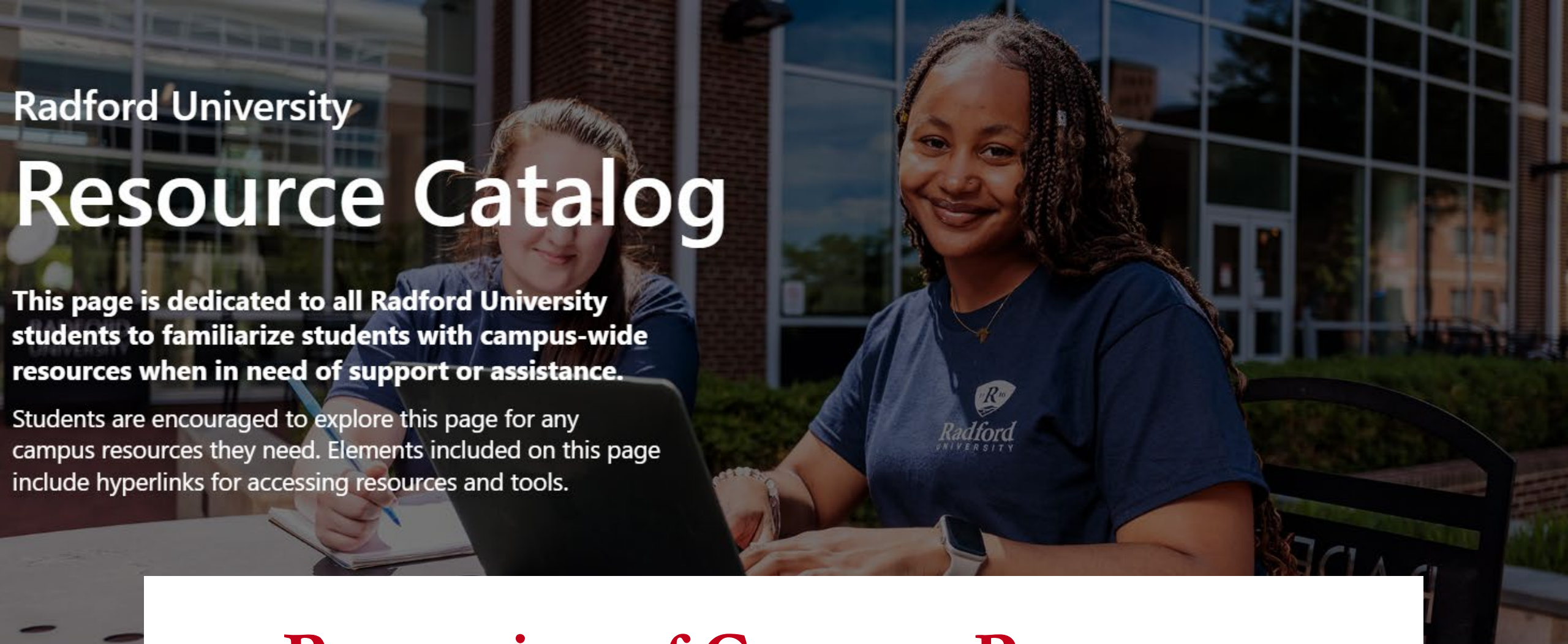
# Overview

- Initiative Goal Recap
- What I Learned
- For the Future Student Representative
- Next Steps

# My Overall Initiative

- Networking
- Promotion of campus resource
- Continuing to support our community



A photograph of two young women sitting at a table outdoors, looking at a laptop. The woman on the right is wearing a blue Radford University t-shirt. The background shows a brick building with large windows.

Radford University

# Resource Catalog

**This page is dedicated to all Radford University students to familiarize students with campus-wide resources when in need of support or assistance.**

Students are encouraged to explore this page for any campus resources they need. Elements included on this page include hyperlinks for accessing resources and tools.

**Promotion of Campus Resources**

# Supporting our Community

- Student Communication Survey
- Table Event at RUC
- Police Plaza



# What I Learned



- Goal Planning
- Event Management
- Teamwork & Collaboration

## For the Future Student Rep

BOV Student Representative  
Folder

Collaborate with SGA

Connect more with RUC  
students and the campus



# Next Steps

- To return home in Northern Virginia and pursue a Social Studies Teaching position
- Give back to the Radford community
- Start a family legacy



Questions?

# Minutes



**Radford**  
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Quarterly Meeting

9:00 a.m.

March 20, 2026

Kyle Hall, Room 340, Radford VA

**DRAFT**

Minutes

**Board Members Present**

Mr. Tyler W. Lester, Rector

Ms. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert, Vice Rector

Mr. Dale Ardizzone

Ms. Jeanne Armentrout

Ms. Joann Craig

Ms. Callie Dalton

Dr. Betty Jo Foster

Ms. Mary Anne Holbrook

Mr. George Mendiola, Jr.

Mr. David A. Smith

Mr. James C. Turk

Dr. Matthew Close, Faculty Representative

Ms. Dominika Butler, Student Representative to the Board

**Board Members Absent**

Ms. Betsy Beamer\*

Mr. William C. Davis\*

Mr. Jonathan Sweet

**Others Present**

Dr. Bret Danilowicz, President

Dr. Dannette Gomez Beane, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Strategic Communications  
Dr. Rob Hoover, Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Dr. Angela Joyner, Vice President for Economic Development and Corporate Education  
Ms. Susan Richardson, University Counsel  
Dr. Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Dr. Bethany Usher, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Ms. Penny Helms White, Vice President for Advancement and Alumni Relations  
Ms. Lisa Ghidotti, Assistant Vice President of Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives  
Dr. Ryan Bowyer, Chief of Staff  
Dr. David Perryman, Associate Vice President for Strategic Communications

### **Call to Order**

Rector Tyler Lester called the meeting to order at approximately 8:57 a.m. in Kyle Hall, 340.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Rector Lester requested approval of the agenda. The approval of the agenda was motioned by Mr. David A. Smith, seconded by Dr. Betty Jo Foster, and approved unanimously.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Rector Lester requested approval of the minutes from the September 2025 quarterly meeting. Dale Ardizzone noted an adjustment to the minutes which were adopted. The September 2025 minutes were motioned by Mr. David A. Smith, seconded, and approved unanimously.

### **Strategic Planning 2026-2031 Update**

Strategic Planning Committee co-chairs Dr. Sharon Roger Hepburn and Dr. Angela Joyner presented a wrap up on the planning process and strategic plan launch, which occurred in January, 2026. The launch was attended by more than 200 people. A special resolution, motioned by Vice Rector Gilbert and seconded by Ms. Callie Dalton, was presented to both on behalf of the board, commemorating their work in stewarding this strategic planning process.

### **Strategic Planning Tracking and Dashboards**

Dr. Ryan Bowyer presented an overview of how Board members can access the transparent, visible dashboards at both the governance and management levels. He noted that dashboard links are available on Board Effect, the [strategic planning](#) website, and the [Board of Visitors](#) website. Hyperlinks have been added above to the relevant places.

### **President's Report**

President Bret Danilowicz provided a report on recent Radford University activities and performance. A copy of the President's remarks are attached as Attachment A and are made a part hereof.

### **Government Relations Update**

Ms. Lisa Ghidotti, Assistant Vice President of Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives, provided of Radford University's legislative priorities for which she advocated for at the 2026 General Assembly. Further, Ms. Ghidotti updated the Board on the current state budget negotiations. Finally, Ms. Ghidotti gave an update on the current bills which have the potential to directly impact the Board of Visitors, governance at Radford University, or the institution at large.

### **Government Relations Interns Presentation**

Rector Lester asked Assistant Vice President of Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives, Lisa Ghidotti, to introduce the Government Relations Interns, Ms. Alivia Turner and Ms. Taylor Plapp. They discussed the intership, the application process, their perceptions before and after the internship, and how they connected their experience to their future careers. They acknowledged what a powerful experience the internship was for them.

### **Committee Reports**

Prior to committee reports, Rector Lester noted that he made two additional committee appointments. Ms. Mary Anne Holbrook was appointed to the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee and Mr. Dale Ardizzone was appointed to the External Engagement Committee.

### **Report from the Academic Excellence and Student Success Committee**

Dr. Betty Jo Foster reported that the committee met on March 19, 2026.

Dr. Foster reported that discussion centered on the Academic Points of Pride and the now-launched six-year strategic plan. She noted that SCHEV had approved Radford University's new mission statement. Radford has been recognized as an Opportunity College.

Dr. Matt Close gave an update on behalf of the faculty senate, concentrating in part on the general education implementation process.

Two attachments were presented: A) faculty promotions and B) resolution for ten (10) faculty to receive tenure. The motion for tenure was made Ms. Callie Dalton, seconded by Jeanne Armentrout, and approved unanimously.

Full minutes may be found in the committee report.

### **Report from the Business Affairs and Audit Committee**

Ms. Jeanne Armentrout reported that the Business Affairs and Audit Committee met on March 19, 2026.

Ms. Armentrout reported that Mr. David Rasnic, Audit Director, Higher Education Programs, gave an update on the annual audit procedures of the FY25 financial statements. Ms. Margaret McManus, University Auditor, gave an overview of internal audit on discretionary spending.

Ms. Armentrout reported that Dr. Rob Hoover, Vice President for Finance and Administration, gave an overview of the financial picture of the University. He discussed, in depth, the tuition and fee recommendations.

Three action items were presented to the Board. The first was a recommendation certifying compliance with the Radford University's debt management policy. This motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. The second was a recommendation for the approval of tuition and fees. This motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. Finally, the third action item was a resolution to extend the temporary Norfolk-Southern easement for construction purposes. This motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Full minutes may be found in the committee report.

### **Report from the Enrollment Management and Brand Equity**

Ms. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert reported that the committee met on March 19, 2026.

**University Communications Plan Update:** Dr. David Perryman shared the finalized strategic communications plan. In addition, he shared that new brand saturation campaign elements were getting ready to be implemented and released.

**Enrollment Update:** The committee reported that enrollment goals have been exceeded, including enrollment stabilization. Retention rate raised to 94% among Pell eligible students. A record number of prospective and admitted students were attending the next day's Highlander Day.

No action items were presented by the committee for Board vote and approval.

Full minutes may be found in the committee report.

### **Report from the External Engagement Committee Report**

Mr. George Mendiola, Jr., Vice Chair, reported that the committee met on March 19. He presented highlights of external engagement and partnerships from the Division of Economic Development and Corporate Education, in particular noting the five areas where the division has aligned their work with the strategic plan. He stated that at the core of the work is partnership.

Mr. Mendiola then gave updates on Advancement and Alumni Relations. The division refined priorities around five focus areas. Total giving to this point in the fiscal year is \$9.2 million, well above the \$6 million goal. RAD48 raised nearly \$170,000 from more than 1,200 donors. A highlight is the \$2.5 million gift from the Virginia Credit Union to establish the Financial Success Center.

No action items were presented by the committee for Board vote and approval.

Full minutes may be found in the committee report.

### **Report from the Student Affairs and Athletics Committee**

Mr. David Smith, Chair, reported that the committee met on March 19. He presented highlights from the meeting, which included a robust presentation from the Student Government President, Mr. Owen Starr. Mr. Starr discussed participation in Advocacy Day. Mr. Smith then reported that student representatives to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) then gave highlights on their experiences throughout the year, which included participating in meetings throughout the year and discussion on key topics impacting the student body. Mr. Smith then reported that Susan Trageser, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Mr. Robert Lineburg, Director of Athletics, gave updates from their respective areas. Other specific information regarding these updates may be found in those committee minutes.

No action items were presented by the committee for Board vote and approval.

Full minutes may be found in the committee report.

### **Foundation Report**

Mr. George Mendiola, Jr., Board Liaison to the Radford University Foundation, provided an update. He reported that the foundation showed continued growth in the endowment.

No action items were presented by the committee for Board vote and approval.

Full minutes may be found in the committee report.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Rector Lester stated that by-laws discussion would continue over the spring and summer in light of the potential changes needed pending action by Governor Spanberger.

Rector Lester put forth a resolution to update the March 2027 meeting date in order to avoid potential post-season basketball play. This was motioned by Ms. Jennifer Wishon Gilbert, seconded by Mr. David Smith, and approved unanimously.

### **Student Representative Report**

Ms. Dominika Butler (“Dom”), Student Representative to the Board, provided an update on her initiatives focused on improving student communication, promoting campus resources, and strengthening engagement with the RUC campus.

No action items were presented by the committee for Board vote and approval.

### **Closed Session**

Dale Ardizzone motioned that the Board of Visitors of Radford University convene a closed session, pursuant to section 2.2-3711 sub part A, items 1, 2, 8 and 9 under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act for the discussion of personnel matters, more specifically related to the President’s performance plan, the discussion of scholastic records, more specifically interviews of student representative candidates and related to personnel matters involving a public officer, for consultation with legal counsel, and for discussion of gifts and fund-raising activities, more specifically related to athletics.

The motion carried, and the Board entered closed session.

### **Reconvened Session and Resolution of Certification**

Upon return to the open session, the Board approved the Resolution of Certification affirming that only matters lawfully exempted under FOIA and identified in the motion were discussed in closed session. The resolution passed by roll call vote.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, Rector Lester adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Bowyer, Ed.D.

Chief of Staff

## Appendix A

### March 2026 President's Board of Visitors Report

Thank you, Rector Lester.

Good morning. It's great to have our board members on campus once again. I sincerely appreciate your dedication and guidance as we re-commit ourselves to empowering brighter futures and building stronger communities.

The Equinox is today, and it feels like we are turning the corner on some very challenging weather we've had since the beginning of the year. I'd like to recognize our teams from Facilities Management, Emergency Management and Housekeeping Services, who worked tirelessly during a particularly difficult two-week stretch of extreme weather. Many worked five consecutive nights and 12-hour days to keep our sidewalks and roads clear and our campus safe. A sincere thanks to all these amazing Highlanders!

First, as we do at each meeting, I'll review some key highlights that illustrate where Radford is in our journey and where we plan to go for the benefit of Highlanders, as well as for the communities we serve. Some of this information was detailed in yesterday's committee meetings, and you will hear more specifics in later presentations.

We continue to see strong trends in enrollment, especially over the past two academic years.

- Total enrollment in the spring term is nearly 7,400 – an increase of about 7 percent over Spring 2024.
- Nursing admissions have grown in particular, both in Pre-Nursing and direct admits.
- We've also had increases in new undergraduate student FAFSA filers, and in Pell-eligible admissions.

- Two notable trends continue: 92 percent of our undergraduate students are Virginians. And even with changing hiring circumstances across the Commonwealth, over 92% of our graduates last year were employed or are continuing their education within six months.

This tells us that Radford remains a key destination for students from the Commonwealth, and that graduates are well positioned to take the next step on their journey.

Our momentum in enrollment is matched with strong student retention results, giving new dimension to our motto, Finding Your Place. Here.

- Among new freshmen, fall-to-spring retention reached 93 percent for the Fall 2025 cohort. That's the highest since Fall 2008, and more than 1.5 percent above Fall 2024.
- Overall undergraduate fall-to-spring retention and graduation grew to 95 percent, continuing a five-year upward trend.
- We're thrilled that Pell-eligible students share this success. Pell-eligible new freshmen retained at 93.2 percent, outperforming the overall new freshman rate and exceeding the national average. Upper-division Pell student rates range from 94% to 95% percent.

What is driving these excellent results?

Thanks to a SCHEV grant awarded last year, we've increased our support for Pell-eligible students, including hiring student advisors to provide one-on-one guidance. This commitment from the Commonwealth will help us further increase retention and graduation rates for students who benefit from greater accessibility.

We also see progress with the Tartan Transfer program. This week, Danville Community College joined as our ninth partner school. More than 75 Tartan Transfer students have declared intent for Fall 2026.

Looking ahead, we are implementing Navigate 360. This is a comprehensive platform to enhance many different administrative and data functions among all student-facing offices and faculty. The first phase will happen in April, and we will continue to share progress updates.

Student success is linked strongly to involvement and experiences. Since Fall 2022, we've promoted and tracked undergraduate student engagement – in-person participation in “touchpoints” such as university programs, events or student organizations.

We're proud that engagement has steadily increased year-over-year.

- For the fall 2025 class, more than 98 percent of first-time students – and more than 92 percent of new transfer students – have taken part in at least four engagement touchpoints by the end of their first semester.

We see this as a key to fostering their belonging and sense of community at Radford, which helps them persist and achieve.

We continue to strengthen our commitment to local communities through innovative programs and partnerships.

There is exciting progress regarding the New River Valley Governor's School in the Arts and Humanities. We've hired Dr. Roxanne Souma [**SOO-ma**] as its Executive Director. She brings 19 years of experience in public education and leadership and is a proud Radford University alumna, who earned her M.S. in Education in 2006.

Applications for the school are now open, and Pulaski County Schools will serve as its fiscal agent. We look forward to opening our doors in Fall 2026. We will continue to move forward in collaboration with our secondary school partners and New River Community College.

Also, the Virginia Credit Union pledged a \$2.5 million gift to the university over 10 years to establish a Financial Success Center. It will provide internships, coaching and educational programs for students' evolving needs. It will also provide programs and services for members of the community.

Several of our winter sports teams and individual athletes achieved notable success this season.

For the second consecutive year, Jeylah Hamrick earned first place in the 400-meter race at the Big South Indoor Track Championships.

The women's basketball team qualified for the Women's NIT Tournament, having finishing second in both the regular season and the conference tournament. Joi Williams and Georgia Simonsen were named to the all-tournament team. If you don't know Joi and Georgia, not only are they outstanding students and athletes, they are also great people.

In fact, tonight, Radford will be hosting the first-round WNIT game – the first time we've ever hosted a postseason tournament game. We welcome you to come and cheer the team on to continued success!

As Dannette and I shared with you in December, we've established the Club Sports Federation to give clubs more prominence. One of those is pickleball. In its first-ever season, the Radford pickleball club qualified for the national collegiate championship – defeating clubs from much larger universities. And women's flag football will kick-off this fall- that team will have to work hard to keep our undefeated record in football intact.

I would now like to share some updates with you in the area of government relations, including several legislative priorities we've been focused on through the General Assembly session that just wrapped up.

At the January SCHEV meeting, I was invited to present to the Council about the university's current initiatives and goals. My highlights included the Tartan Transfer partnership and our positive momentum in the areas of enrollment, retention, experiential learning and career placement, as well as the Bold Commitments that are built into our new strategic plan.

On the legislative front, I spent a significant amount of time in Richmond over the last two months meeting with members of the General Assembly to advocate for Radford's state priorities and share university initiatives and the university's direction moving forward.

I was able to meet with 47 of the 140 members of the General Assembly during my trips, primarily with House and Senate leadership, money committee members and our regional delegation. In addition, I had a productive meeting with the new Secretary of Education Jeffery Smith and his Deputy, Connor Andrews, to discuss Radford's strengths and alignment with Governor Spanberger's higher education priorities. I look forward to meeting with additional key members of her Administration and positioning the university to be a strong partner for the Governor during the next four years.

In February, 50 Highlanders, including students and faculty members, took part in Advocacy Day – an annual event to promote dialogue with our elected officials and showcase the great things Highlanders are achieving through their support. Students from across the Commonwealth were able to meet and talk with their local legislators. We had great interactions with Governor Spanberger and Lt. Governor Hashmi, including a meet and greet with the Governor in the Executive Mansion.

As you are aware, I was appointed by Speaker Scott last year to the Frank Ruff Center for Rural Virginia Board of Trustees, which is a nonpartisan organization focused on strengthening economic and social vitality across rural areas of the Commonwealth. In my capacity as a board member, some of my time at the General Assembly this session was spent participating in Rural Caucus meetings and the Rural Caucus Legislative Breakfast, attending a Virginia Rural Leadership Institute gathering, and meeting with Lt. Governor Hashmi to discuss the work and importance of the Virginia Rural Center and rural Virginia. I'll share an update on the soon-to-be-established Center for Rural Health in just a moment.

Having completed work on the previous two-year strategic plan, the university has shifted our focus to implementation and measurement of our new six-year strategic plan.

We had a great launch event for the new strategic plan on January 23. The title of the plan – Shaping Tomorrow Together – is our vision for the future. The event featured presentations and a reception for attendees, along with some strategic plan swag to help promote the plan and build excitement.

As you just saw in Ryan’s presentation, our approach to strategic planning is very actionable, combining milestones to evaluate progress with substantive monitoring. We’ll continue to update you on progress and issues requiring further action.

And as already noted, we greatly appreciate Dr. Joyner and Dr. Roger Hepburn for spearheading the immense work on developing the plan. Thanks also to the board members who guided its development along the way.

We continue to work toward launching the Center for Rural Health. We foresee that it will help communities across Southwest and Southside Virginia shape and sustain their own health and well-being. We and our partners will create a hub to coordinate medical, mental, and dental health throughout the region.

This is a bold commitment – far beyond Radford's traditional scope. But it’s entirely in keeping with our values and our strategic goals, and it is a critical need in our region.

- First and foremost, it’s an extension of our Culture of Care. We are not merely “providing for” them but partnering with them.
- And it gives our students experiential learning that is immediately translatable into work that is not only rewarding but in great demand throughout the region.

We have several key objectives:

- Following the plans of the Blue Ridge Partnership, create a pipeline of talent from rural areas which develops then retains more health professionals regionally.
- To work with our partners to collect and collate regional health disparity data, then use that to involve our students with patient monitoring and health education from the areas with the greatest disparities in the region.

- Through applied research, learn how the health systems and graduates can leverage their effort more effectively to prevent rural disparities from getting worse.
- In all this, we'll ensure that these efforts complement — not compete with — the work of hospital systems and community health organizations throughout the region.

We'll soon announce the members of our Partner Council, which will first study data to assess regional health needs, then develop action plans. We are seeking the expertise and perspectives we need from major foundations and healthcare organizations in Southwest and Southside Virginia.

We will rely heavily on our partners to shape these efforts to meet their needs. And by focusing on rural health, we can include partners we have not worked with before. Our partners can then extend that outreach, working within their own communities and networks to broaden the impact of the initiative.

As you can see, there is a lot happening at Radford. We have many recent achievements to be proud of and exciting work underway. And we are pursuing many new opportunities. I hope you share my pride, my excitement and my commitment to continue to fulfill our mission.

The Culture of Care is foundational to all our work. We actively engage and support our students, our faculty and staff, and our community. We are encouraged by our success thus far. But we have much more to achieve. With the guidance and support from this Board, I know we can continue to Shape Tomorrow – Together.

Thank you.

# End of Board of Visitors Materials

