



## **Celebrating Students of Virginia's Community Colleges**

### **2025 Diversity Calendar**

**We give everyone the opportunity to learn and develop the right skills, *so lives and communities are strengthened.***



**NUTRITION KNOWLEDGE:** Virginia Western students toured a local grocery store with Dietitian Holly Drougas to learn about what's best for our body. They even scored a gift card at the end to use for their groceries. This outing was one of the many student life/student engagement activities that VWCC offers students. **Photo Credit:** Chad Heddleston

# January

2025

## NATIONAL POVERTY AWARENESS IN AMERICA MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> World Braille Day
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Swami Vivekananda Jayanti	<b>13</b> Lohri (Hindu) Korean American Day	<b>14</b> Pongal (Hindu) Mahayana New Year (Buddhist)	<b>15</b> VCCS State Board through Jan. 16	<b>16</b> \$	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> World Religion Day	<b>20</b> Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	<b>21</b> National Day of Racial Healing VCCS Legislative Reception	<b>22</b> VCCS Tech Council through Jan. 23	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> International Day of Clean Energy	<b>27</b> International Commemoration of Holocaust Victims	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Lunar New Year	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> \$	
				<p><b>January</b> also is designated as Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Mental Wellness Month, and National Mentoring Month.</p>		



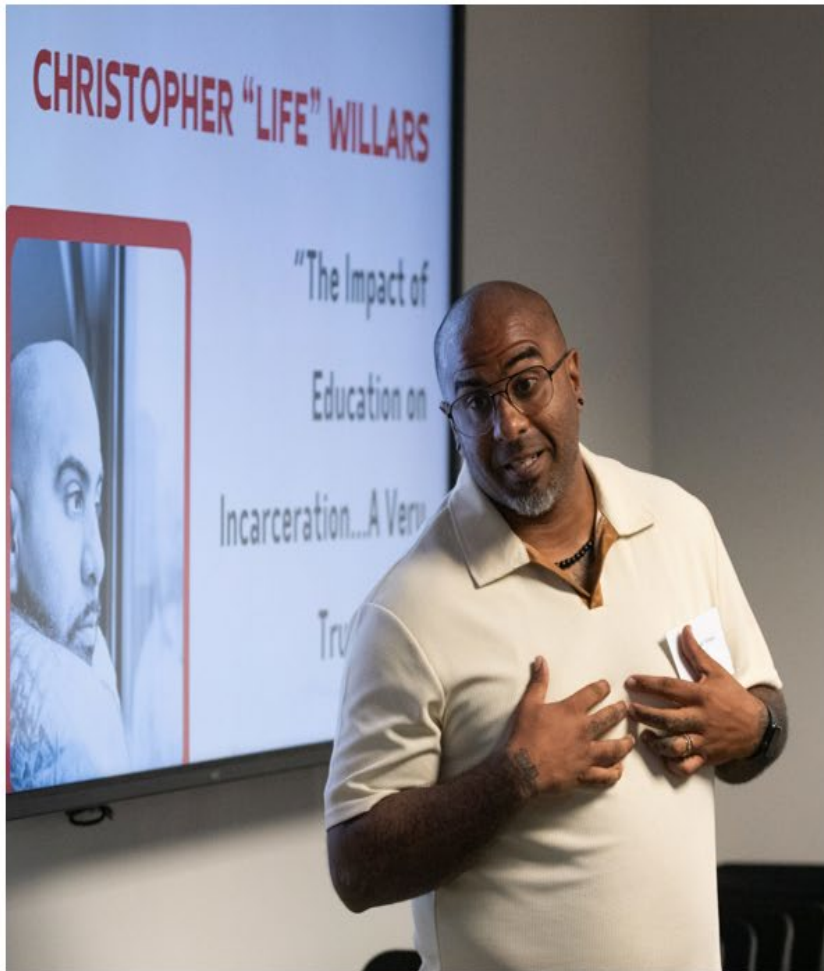
**ACCESS ON WHEELS:** GRTC Route 1 expanded access to J. Sargeant Reynolds' Parham Road Campus. Service operates every 30 minutes Mon-Saturday and hourly on evenings and weekends. On Feb. 4, Transit Equality Day honors Rosa Parks, a civil rights leader who refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in 1955.

# February

2025

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> World Interfaith Harmony Week National Freedom Day Imbolc (Pagan/Wiccan)
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> World Cancer Day	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
9	10	11 International Day of Women & Girls in Science	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Presidents Day	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> World Day of Social Justice	<b>21</b> \$	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> ACOP through Feb. 25	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Maha Shivratri (Hindu)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> \$	
				<p><b>February</b> also is designated as American Heart Month, Low Vision Awareness Month, National Cancer Prevention Month, and Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.</p>		



**SECOND CHANCES:** Christopher "Life" Willars and Jesse Crosson shared their stories of how access to education while they were incarcerated helped them to build second chances once released. Willars and Crosson were guest speakers at a Higher Education for Justice Impacted Individuals Consortium meeting and their visits were supported in part by the Laughing Gull Foundation. Several Virginia Community Colleges offer college courses to incarcerated individuals. **Photo Credit:** Clement Britt

# March

# 2025

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> Nineteen Day Fast (Baha'i) Ramadan (Islam), March 1-30
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Ash Wednesday (Christian) Equal Pay Day	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> International Women's Day
<b>9</b> Daylight Savings begins through Nov. 2	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Purim (Judaism, sundown through March 14)	<b>14</b> Holi (Hindu) Hola Mohalla (Sikh) \$	<b>15</b> International Combat Islamophobia Day
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day Neurodiversity Celebration Week, March 17-23	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> VCCS State Board through March 20 Naw-Ruz sundown (Baha'I)	<b>20</b> Ostara/Spring Equinox (Pagan/Wiccan)	<b>21</b> International Racial Discrimination Elimination Day World Down Syndrome Day	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> International Remembrance of Slavery Victims, Transatlantic Slave Trade	<b>26</b> VCCS Tech Council through March 27	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Ugadi (Hindu)
<b>30</b> Eid al-Fitr (Islam)	<b>31</b> Cesar Chavez Day International Transgender Day of Visibility \$				<b>March</b> is also designated as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Irish American Heritage Month, Greek American Heritage Month, Ethnic Equality Month, & Gender Equality Month.	



**POETRY IN MOTION:** Ana Leng, inaugural Poet Laureate of Virginia's Community Colleges, performs at New Horizons. Leng was chosen as Central Virginia Community College and competed with other poet laureates for the inaugural role. The work of the Visual Art Luminaries, winning visual artists, Poet Laureates, and other winning poets appear in a book, "I Belong." April is National Poetry Month. This year's New Horizons is April 2 through 4 at the Hotel Roanoke. **Photo Credit:** Clement Britt.



# April

2025

## CELEBRATE DIVERSITY MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> New Horizons through April 4 World Autism Awareness Day	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> World Health Day	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> National Day of Silence (LGBTQIA+)	<b>12</b> Passover through April 20 (Judaism) Memorial of Jesus' Death (Jehovah's Witnesses)
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Vaisakhi (Hindu) Cambodian New Year	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Tax Day ACOP through April 16 \$	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Good Friday (Christian)	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Easter Ridvan through May 1 (Baha'i)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Earth Day	<b>23</b> Administrative Professionals Day	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Lesbian Visibility Day
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> International Jazz Day			
				<p><b>April</b> is also designated as Arab American Heritage Month, Autism Awareness &amp; Acceptance Month, National Deaf History Month, National Poetry Month, National Volunteer Month, and Earth Month.</p>		



**SCHOLARLY SEEDS:** Reynolds student Bea Castro (front) performs a traditional Afro-Puerto Rican bomba as part of her research project at the Mellon Pathways/Mellon Research Fellows recognition event at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Brightpoint and J. Sargeant Reynolds students had year-long research projects in the humanities and arts that featured weekly mentor and peer meetings, monthly symposia, and hours of reading, interviewing, reflecting, writing and learning. Mentors included a community college faculty member and a VCU faculty member.  
**Photo Credit:** Clement Britt

# May

2025

## ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> National Day of Prayer Beltane (Pagan/Wiccan) \$	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Cinco de Mayo National Awareness of Missing/Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Mother's Day	<b>12</b> Vesak (Buddhism)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> VCCS Tech Council through May 15	<b>15</b> Lag BaOmer (Judaism) Sundown through May 16 Global Accessibility Awareness Day	<b>16</b> \$	<b>17</b> Armed Forces Day International Day Against Homo-, Bi- & TransPhobia
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> VCCS State Board through May 22	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Memorial Day	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i) Sundown through May 29.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> \$	<b>31</b>
				<p><b>May</b> is designated also as Jewish American Heritage Month, Haitian Heritage Month, Indian Heritage Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, Older Americans Month, National Speech-Language-Hearing Month.</p>		



**HOWLING GOOD TIMES:** Friendly competition and loads of fun were had by students, faculty and staff at the Virginia Highlands Community College's *Wolf Games*. Energetic teams showed off their skills in tug of war, cornhole, hula hooping, and more on the *VHCC Commons* against the backdrop of a gorgeous summer day! In this photo, Assistant Professor of Art, Marie Porterfield, and several VHCC students leave it all on the field during the hula hooping contest – a wonderful culmination of *De-Stress Week* at VHCC.

# June

# 2025

## LGBTQIA+ PRIDE MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Shavuot sundown through June 3 (Judaism)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> World Environment Day	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Eid al-Adha (Islam)
<b>8</b> Race Unity Day	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Loving Day	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Flag Day
<b>15</b> Father's Day	<b>16</b> \$	<b>17</b> ACOP through June 18	<b>18</b> International Countering Hate Speech Day	<b>19</b> Juneteenth	<b>20</b> World Refugee Day	<b>21</b> Litha/Summer Solstice (Pagan/Wiccan)
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Al Hijra/Muharram sundown (Islam)	<b>28</b> LGBTQIA+ Pride Day
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					
					<b>June</b> is also designated as Immigrant Heritage Month, National Caribbean American Heritage Month and Black Music Month.	



**DRIVING SUCCESS:** U.S. Senators Tim Kaine (left) and Mark Warner test drive simulators used in Germanna Community College's heavy equipment operator certification program. While there, the senators participated in a roundtable and announced federal funding to support early childhood education and internships for foster youth participating in Great Expectations. **Photo Credit:** Clement Britt

# July

2025

## DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		\$			Independence Day	Ashura, sundown through July 6 (Islam)
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
			Martyrdom of Bab (Baha'i)		World Population Day	
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
	International Non-Binary People's Day		\$		Nelson Mandela International Day	
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
World Chess Day				Pioneer Day (Latter-day Saints)		National Disability Independence Day
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		
			International Day of Friendship			
					<b>July</b> is designated as French American Heritage Month, BIPOC Mental Health Awareness Month. South Asian Heritage Month runs from July 18 to Aug. 17.	



**APPLE A WAY:** Virginia Community College System State Board Member Anthony “Tony” Miller, an alum of Virginia Highlands, with Chancellor David Doré’s assistance, tosses an apple to illustrate his unforgettable lesson on how to pronounce Appalachia in the demonstration at the Chancellor’s Retreat - Apple-at-cha. The 2025 Chancellor’s Retreat is August 6-8 at the Hotel Roanoke. **Photo Credit:** Clement Britt.



# August

2025

## NATIONAL CIVILITY MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Lamas (Pagan/Wiccan) \$	2
3	4	5	6 Chancellor's Retreat through August 8 (Hotel Roanoke)	7 Purple Heart Day	8	9 World Indigenous People's Day
10	11	12	13	14	15 \$	16
17	18	19 World Humanitarian Day	20	21 Paryushana (Jain) Senior Citizens Day	22 \$	23
24	25	26 Women's Equality Day Ganesh Chaturthi sundown through Aug. 27 (Hindu)	27	28	29 \$	30
31 International People of African Descent Day				<b>August</b> also is designated as Don't Be A Bully Month, National Breastfeeding Month, National Hair Loss Awareness Month, and National Immunization Awareness Month.		



**HEART STRINGS:** The UNITY Project at Brightpoint is an interactive art installation in which there are poles set up in a circle, each with an identifier on a sign. People then tie yar to the center pole and begin walking around the project, wrapping the yarn around the poles they identify with. As more and more people participate, a lovely web begins to form. It shows us that even though we are each unique, we connect in so many ways.

# September

2025

## HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Labor Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Mawlid al-Nabi Sundown (Islam) International Charity Day	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> World Suicide Prevention Day	<b>11</b> Patriot Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Mexican Independence Day \$	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> International Equal Pay Day	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> HeforShe Movement Anniversary
<b>21</b> International Day of Peace	<b>22</b> Mabon/Autumnal Equinox Rosh Hashanah sundown through Sept. 24 Sharad Navaratri through Oct. 1	<b>23</b> International Day of Sign Languages	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> European Day of Languages	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Veterans of Foreign Wars Day	<b>30</b> National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Canada) \$				
					<b>Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15 through Oct. 15. September is also designated as Suicide Prevention Month and National Guide Dog Month.</b>	



**FOOD FUN:** The Hungry Games were featured at the annual Student Leadership Conference, which was attended by more than 200 students from 21 of Virginia's Community Colleges. Students tossed seasonings, tasted their creations, and touted their treats before judges. Students also gained valuable insights into leadership by participating in professional workshops with discussions led by Hoan Do and Stan Pearson and connecting with community leaders. **Photo Credit:** Clement Britt

# October

2025

## NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Yom Kippur sundown through Oct. 2 (Judaism) International Day of Older Persons	<b>2</b> Dussehra (Hindu)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> World Teachers' Day	<b>6</b> Sukkot sundown through Oct. 13 (Judaism)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> World Mental Health Day World Inclusion Day	<b>11</b> National Coming Out Day
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Indigenous People's Day	<b>14</b> ACOP through Oct. 15 Shemini Atzeret sundown (Judaism)	<b>15</b> International Pronouns Day Simchat Torah sundown (Judaism)	<b>16</b> \$	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Diwali through Oct. 23 (Hindu, Jains, Sikhs)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Birth of the Bab (Bahá'í)	<b>23</b> Birth of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í)	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> International Stuttering Awareness Day
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Samhain sundown \$	
				<p><b>October</b> is also designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Bullying Prevention Month, Domestic Violence Awareness Month, LGBTQIA+ History Month, and Heritages Months for Filipino Americans, German Americans, Italian Americans, and Polish Americans.</p>		



**ORANGE PATIENTS:** At Blue Ridge Community College's Pharmacy Technician simulation lab, the class reviewed the laws, regulations, and requirements for pharmacy technicians to be able to administer immunizations to patients. Students then used oranges to simulate giving a vaccine to a patient - using a syringe and needle and injecting colored water into the orange.

# November

2025

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> All Saints Day Dia de los Muertos
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Election Day	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Veteran's Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> World Kindness Day Transgender Awareness Week through Nov. 19	<b>14</b> \$	<b>15</b> National Philanthropy Day
<b>16</b> International Day of Tolerance	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> International Men's Day	<b>20</b> Transgender Day of Remembrance	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> ½ Day off	<b>27</b> Thanksgiving	<b>28</b> Native American Heritage Day Offices Closed	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>					<b>November</b> is also designated as Movember, awareness of men's health issues, National Veterans and Military Families Month, and Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Month.	



**FORGING FIBER:** Student Nichelle Oanh Cooks was among those who enrolled in Northern Virginia Community College's Workforce Fiber Optics Installer Certification Preparation Course. Students learned the basics of installing and maintaining fiber optic networks, gained experience installing lines both above ground and underground, and practiced techniques for protecting fiber optic cables during construction. Fiber optic training supports data center development and operations, preparing individuals for high-demand jobs in this rapidly growing sector.



# December

2025

## UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> World AIDS Day \$	<b>2</b> National Day of Giving	<b>3</b> International Day for People with Disabilities	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> International Volunteer Day	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Bodhi Day	<b>9</b> International Genocide Prevention Day	<b>10</b> International Human Rights Day	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Hanukkah through Dec. 22	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Posadas Navidenas through Dec. 24	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> \$	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Yule/Winter Solstice through Jan. 1 (Pagan/Wiccan)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> \$	Christmas	Kwanzaa through Jan. 1	
				<p><b>December</b> is also designated as HIV/AIDS Awareness Month, National Car Donation Month, and Learn a Foreign Language Month.</p>		



**"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."**

**– Benjamin Franklin**

# LEARN ABOUT VIRGINIA'S ALICE POPULATION

We all know people who are ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — earning more than the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough to afford the basics where they live.

ALICE lives in rural, urban, and suburban areas across Virginia. ALICE households and households in poverty are forced to make tough choices, such as deciding between quality child care or paying the rent — choices that have long-term consequences not only for their families, but for all.

ALICE works hard, but it's not enough. A key contributor to the number of ALICE households in Virginia is the fundamental mismatch between the cost of living and what jobs pay. The following professions have employees who live below the ALICE threshold: cooks and personal care aides, 55%; nursing assistants, 54%; cashiers, 52%; stockers/order fillers, 46%; fast food and counter workers, 43%; retail sales and laborers/material movers, 40%. The percentage represents the proportion of workers in the profession below the ALICE threshold.

United For ALICE calculates the cost of household essentials for all counties in Virginia. These costs, outlined in the [Household Survival Budget](#), are calculated for various household sizes and compositions.

Of Virginia's 3,338,674 households in 2022:

- 11% earned below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- 29% were ALICE, in households that earned above the FPL but not enough to afford the basics in the communities where they live
- Together, 40% of households in Virginia were below the ALICE Threshold (poverty + ALICE divided by total households)

While the COVID-19 pandemic brought employment shifts, health struggles, and school/business closures, it also spurred temporary expansion of public assistance through pandemic relief measures (which then reverted to pre-pandemic levels in 2022). In 2019, 1,213,684 households in Virginia were below the ALICE Threshold; by 2022, that number had changed to 1,337,175.

ALICE household data for Virginia is available by County, ZIP code, Census Designated Place, and County Subdivision and by [Legislative District](#). You can also compare states and explore national-level data on the [National Overview](#) page.

**SOURCE:** The above information was found at [unitedforalice.org/Virginia](https://unitedforalice.org/Virginia), a website that is rich in data about the ALICE community. The report was supported by the following sponsors: United Ways of Virginia, United Way of South Hampton Roads, Atlantic Union Bank, Compare.com, and the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education.