

Virginia Tribal Education Consortium (VTEC): A Journey of Empowerment and Growth



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TEDNA Annual Meeting 2024
Palm Springs Convention Center
Palm Springs, CA

Virginia Tribal Education Consortium (VTEC)



Welcome & Acknowledgement

Overview

- History of Tribes
- History of VTEC
- Governance
- Milestones
- Growth
- Future

Vision: To achieve sovereignty through education for the Indigenous Nations of Virginia.

Federally Recognized Virginia Tribes

Chickahominy
Indian Tribe

Chickahominy
Indian Tribe -
Eastern
Division

Monacan
Indian Nation

Nansemond
Indian Nation

Pamunkey
Tribe

Rappahannock
Tribe

Upper
Mattaponi Tribe

1692

MANN AHOACKS

VIRGINIA

Massawomecks

Signification of these marks
 To the crosses hath bin discoverd
 what beyond is by relation
 Kings houses 2
 Ordinary houses 2



POWHATAN
 Held this state & fashion when Capt. Smith
 was delivered to him prisoner
 1607

MIN
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CHL
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James town
 Cape Henry
 Cape Charles

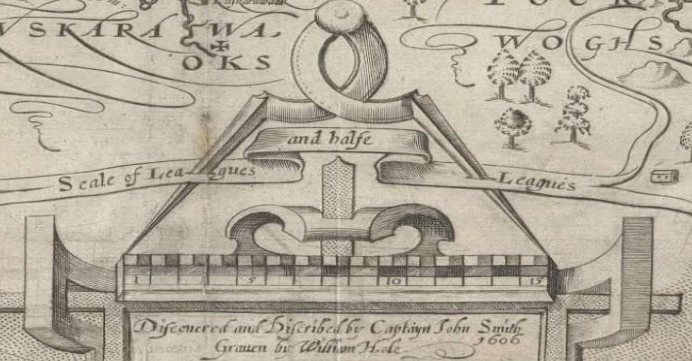


THE
 VIRGINIAN
 SEA



The Sasquehahanougs
 are a Gram like people &
 thus a forefere

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 and halfe Leagues



Discovered and Described by Captain John Smith
 Grauen by Wilham Hole
 1606



VA Tribes' History

Culture

- Six of the seven Tribes are Algonquin, the seventh Tribe is Siouan
- Spoke Algonquian and Siouan dialects
- Some of the Tribes were members of the Powhatan Chiefdom
- Hunters, fishermen, and gatherers

Contact

- Ancestors were among the approximately 30 Tribes that made first contact with settlers in Jamestown in 1607
- Treaties were with England
- Were pressured and forced to leave ancestral villages along rivers
- Only two Tribes still have reservations

VA Tribes' History (cont.)

Diet

- Wild game like deer, turkey, squirrel, and rabbit
- Fish, mussels, crabs, oysters, and shrimp
- Corn, beans, and squash

Dwellings

- Lived in Yehakins that were a more permanent type of dwelling
- Didn't have to move with the food supply like the Indians in the plains

VA Tribes' History (cont.)



Importance of Education for VA Tribes

Limited Opportunities

- VA Indians had limited educational options because of segregation
- Even with the challenges, the Tribes put a priority on education
- Some of the Tribes donated land and funds to build Indian schools

Importance of Education for VA Tribes (cont.)

Sharon Indian School



Tribes with Indian Schools

- Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division
- Monacan Nation
- Pamunkey Tribe
- Upper Mattaponi Tribe

VTEC Formation

Initial Activities

- Quinton Roman Nose met with Chief Emeritus Ken Adams(Upper Mattaponi) and Chief Stephen Adkins(Chickahominy), encouraged them to form an educational consortium, and apply for a TEDNA grant to form a Tribal Education Agency (TEA) as soon as they received federal recognition
- After receiving federal recognition in 2018, the five Tribes entered into an agreement to form an educational consortium in 2019. The five Tribes grew to seven.
- Formed the Virginia Tribal Education Consortium, Inc. (VTEC) in 2019 as a 501(c)3 as a TEA
- The consortium secured the services of Michael Pavel and Todd Johnson to pursue a State Tribes Education Partnership (STEP) grant that was awarded in 2020

The Origins of VTEC

Formation, Governance, and Mission



VTEC was **established in 2019** through the **State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP)** federal grant facilitated by TEDNA (Tribal Education Departments National Assembly).



VTEC is governed by a **14-member Board of Directors**. Each of the seven member Tribes has two Board seats.



VTEC's **mission** is to empower the seven federally recognized tribes of Virginia by supporting educational success from early childhood to adult education, focusing on academic achievement and career development.



Initial Challenges and Vision

• Challenges

- Uniting ALL Tribes, i.e., 5 to 7
- Establishing Organizational Capacity
- Addressing Educational Disparities
- Cultural Preservation
- Building Partnerships

• Vision

- Achieving Sovereignty Through Education
- Academic and Career Success for Native Students
- Cultural Preservation and Education
- Expanding Educational Opportunities

Key Milestones in VTEC's Growth



- **Tribal Representation Expansion**

- TEDNA & VTEC One-Year State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) Grant 2019
- Began with five tribes and grew to seven
- Became Virginia's first Tribal Education Agency (TEA), representing a unified effort to advocate for Native education across the state 2020
- VTEC Two-Year State Tribal Education Partnership (STEP) Grant 2020

- **Partnerships and Collaborations**

- VTEC has worked closely with local educational agencies (LEAs), the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), and institutions of higher learning.
- Native American Career and Technical Education Program (NACTEP): Focus on enhancing career readiness.
- Native Youth Community Project (NYCP): Aimed at improving college and career readiness.

- **Strategic Communication Plan**

- Developed in 2022 to ensure transparency and stakeholder engagement, this plan helped solidify VTEC's role and build relationships with key educational agencies.

Current Grants

Career and Technical Education (CTE), 5 Years, Awarded 2021

- Tuition, books, and computer purchase assistance
- Provided direct assistance for 77 citizens from all 7 Virginia federally recognized tribes and 1 citizens from a VA state recognized Tribe
- Worked with partners to provide computer literacy courses for secondary and post-secondary citizens
- Worked with post-secondary students to attain credits through dual enrollment.
- Provided work-based learning opportunities in collaboration with Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

Current Grants (cont.)

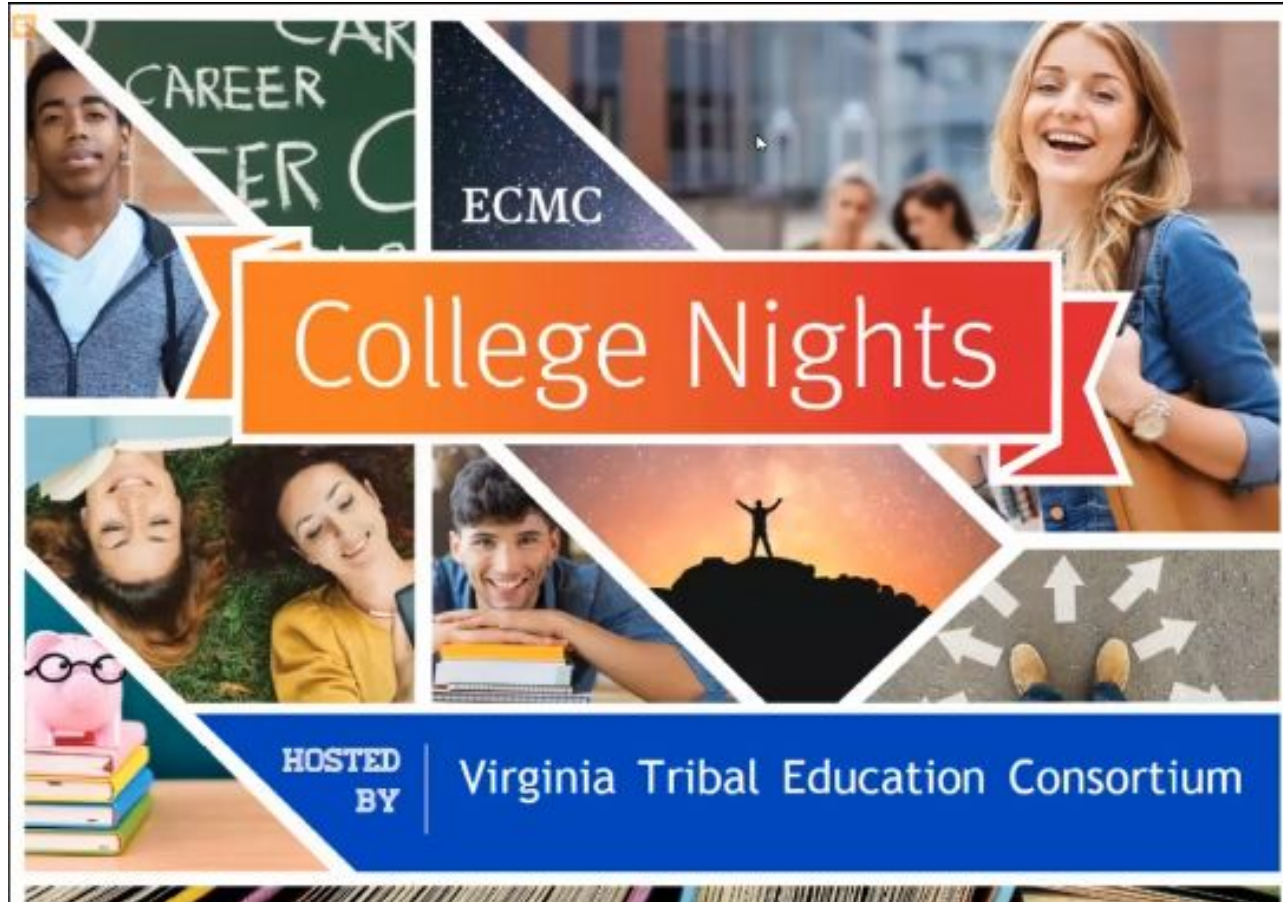
Native Youth Community Project (NYCP), 5 Years, Awarded 2022

- Assists students with identifying the best post-secondary educational or career path for them by establishing external partnerships for Tribal communities. Project staff assist students with completing college and financial aid applications. Provide access to college grants database.
- ACT and SAT preparation sessions for high school students with partners
- Organized 12 college and/or career readiness events at member Tribe locations

During Grant Year 2:

- 22 participants confirmed taking the SAT or ACT test
- 18 participants completed Honors, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and/or Dual Enrollment college coursework.
- 13 participants completed career-focused, work-based learning experiences.

VTEC's Path Forward: Sustainability and Growth



Long-Term Vision and Expansion

- VTEC's commitment to **expanding educational opportunities** and ensuring the **long-term sustainability** of its programs.
- **Grow funding streams** such as tribal contributions, professional services, and partnerships.

Future Initiatives

- Community Awareness, Conferences, Programs, Education, & Training
- Continue fostering collaborations, focusing on addressing challenges such as academic disparities, workforce readiness, and cultural preservation.

VTEC's Commitment to Tribal Sovereignty and Education

- **Sovereignty Through Education**

- VTEC's vision is rooted in the belief that education is a path to sovereignty for Virginia's Indigenous nations. By giving tribes, the tools to shape their own educational programs, VTEC reinforces cultural preservation and self-determination.

- **Cultural Integration**

- VTEC promotes culturally and historically accurate education, integrating Native heritage into all educational levels—from early childhood through adult education.

- **Programs to Preserve Culture**

- Projects such as the oral history project ensure that Virginia tribes' stories and traditions are passed down to future generations, empowering youth through a strong sense of identity and heritage.

- **Building a Strong Financial Foundation**

- VTEC continues to explore diversified funding sources beyond federal grants, including partnerships, fee-for-service offerings, contracts, and contributions.

- **Long-Term Impact**

- With its focus on scalability and sustainability, VTEC aims to be a long-lasting force for educational transformation in Virginia's Native communities. Our VTEC Board will continue to expand programs that deliver tangible results, such as career and technical education, while growing its influence across the state.

Building Bright Futures

VTEC Offers Unforgettable Learning Activities for Tribal Youth!

Looking for engaging, constructive activities for your tribe's youth? VTEC can use our community partnerships to facilitate on-site STEM activities, free field trips, and other fun learning opportunities that are perfect for summer camps and tribal youth councils.

For questions, please email NYCP Project Director, Dr. Drew Allmond at drew.allmond@vtecinc.org

Scan the QR Code to Visit NYCP's page on VTEC's website!

<https://www.vtecinc.org/native-youth-community-project>

Partnerships

The Virginia Tribal Education Consortium (VTEC) has a growing number of partnerships that include but are not limited to businesses, school systems, organizations, and colleges.

College Partnerships

- University of Richmond ([UoR](#))
- Virginia Commonwealth University ([VCU](#))
 - Rehabilitation Research and Training Center ([RRTC](#))
- Virginia Tech ([VT](#))
- University of Virginia ([UVA](#))
- William & Mary ([WM](#))

School System Partnerships

- [Albermarle County Public Schools](#)
- [Amherst County Public Schools](#)
- [Charles City County Public Schools](#)
- [King William County Public Schools](#)
- [Virginia Community College Systems \(VCCS\)](#)

Organization Partnerships

- [Virginia Humanities](#)
- Daughters of the American Revolution ([DAR](#))
- The State Council of Higher Education of Virginia ([SCHEV](#))
- [Bridging Communities](#)
- [CodeVA](#)
- American College Testing ([ACT](#))
- [Northstar Academy](#)
- The Virginia Museum of History and Culture ([VMHC](#))
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration ([NASA](#))
- Federal Bureau of Investigation ([FBI](#))
- Colonial Williamsburg Foundation ([CWF](#))
- Virginia Dominion Energy
- Virginia Free Farm

Keys to A Successful Tribal Consortium

- Identify a need that is common for all Tribes
- Get Tribal leadership onboard
- Establish a project team that includes representation from all Tribes
- Select a project manager that can achieve consensus
- Identify realistic goals
- Regular communication with the leadership of the member Tribes about the operations

Conclusion

- **Closing Thoughts**
 - VTEC and the Board are committed to Virginia Native education
 - TEDNA & VTEC serve as a model for Tribal Education Departments/Agencies.
 - Critical that we collaborate, advocate, and lead tribal sovereignty through education.
- **Q&A Session**
 - Questions
 - Thank You



VIRGINIA TRIBAL EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

Are you an enrolled citizen of a state or federally recognized tribal nation?

Use the QR code to complete our survey and our academic coordinators will reach out with the information on how we can connect you to resources and funding including:

- Internships ✓
- Scholarships ✓
- Direct Assistance ✓
- Career Development ✓
- College Planning ✓

vtecstaff@vtecinc.org vtecinc.org

The poster features a map of Virginia, a QR code, and a photo of three young women. It is designed with a green and white color scheme and includes three green checkmarks to the right of the survey text.



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More Information & Links



Virginia Tribal Education Consortium (VTEC). (2024). One Voice United for Education. Retrieved from <https://www.vtecinc.org>



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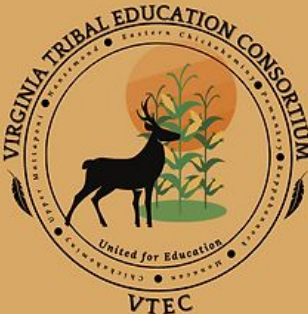
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