For 45 years, Thomas Nelson Community College has been carrying out its comprehensive mission of providing affordable and accessible higher education to the citizens of the Peninsula. The College has transformed the lives of numerous individuals who have realized their personal aspirations for a better life for themselves and their families. Over 25,000 students have graduated from TNCC since 1967. But the benefits transcend the individual—our communities are stronger, our civic and cultural life more vibrant, our economy more dynamic because Thomas Nelson has been here making a difference for nearly half a century.

TNCC is proud of its considerable academic accomplishments and the breadth of its post-secondary offerings, particularly those in Science, Technologies, Engineering, Mathematics, and the Health Professions. Nowhere else in the Commonwealth is wide-spread proficiency in STEM-related disciplines more important than here on the Peninsula, with its historically strong role in heavy industry, advanced and precision manufacturing, and cutting edge technologies. TNCC provides a pathway for many in pursuit of baccalaureate degrees as well as a wide variety of career, technical, and professional programs in various curricular formats: applied associate degrees, certificates, and non-credit training.

The stimulating mix of ages and life experiences in our student body makes for a powerful learning environment. Nearly half are 25 years of age or older. And 65 percent are from “underserved populations”: first-generation, minority, or low-income students. Without the affordable and accessible option to higher education provided by TNCC, many would find themselves shut out from opportunities for personal growth and economic advancement. And the larger economy and society would be denied the benefit of the considerable talent and contribution that these students can bring to the marketplace and the community.

The future for Thomas Nelson Community College is bright. In the days ahead:

- **I see a college** committed to its core function to produce graduates who will be both productive and contributing members of society—individuals who are well prepared to fill the jobs and careers that are needed in our competitive economy and who also understand that, as beneficiaries of public higher education, they have a responsibility to give back to the larger community, true to the spirit of selfless patriotism and public service that animated our namesake, Thomas Nelson of Yorktown.

- **I see a college** that partners effectively with our regional school systems to ensure that those high school graduates who too often have been found to be
underprepared in Math and English skills at the point of admission to the community college will now be certifiably “college-ready.”

- **I see a college** that also works closely with school systems to provide their academically capable students with opportunities to earn advanced college credit and experience a genuinely collegiate environment through Dual Enrollment and Early College programs.

- **I see a college** that provides our universities with exceptionally able transfer students who, in the course of completing their associate degree, have become well-grounded in those core competencies, those habits of mind, that are vital for further education.

- **I see a college** that, in close collaboration with Peninsula businesses and industries, provides those seeking jobs with fast tracks to living-wage employment in a variety of skilled trades and technologies that are critical to the region’s economy.

- **I see a college** that challenges its most capable and aspiring students through honors, opportunities for leadership and performance, sponsored travel and other forms of exposure to the wider world, thereby expanding the horizon of possibilities available to them.

- In short, **I see a college** that, in fulfillment of its stated mission, “changes lives, empowers students to succeed, and enhances the social and economic vitality of the region through high quality education and workforce training, excellent service, and innovative partnerships.”

Our essence lies in the countless students whose lives have been transformed by the power of education and love of learning. TNCC makes this difference in people’s lives because it is grounded in constancy of purpose yet open to change. We know who we are, and we are confident in the worth of what we do. But we are anything but complacent. We continually adapt and renew ourselves in response to the needs and aspirations of our community. You can count on us.