

Office of  
Advanced  
Programs

# The College Connection

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Creating a College-Going  
Culture in WCPS



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## VCU Facts

Location  
Richmond, VA

Enrollment  
32,436

School Colors  
Black and Gold

Admissions Tests  
SAT preferred  
ACT accepted

Degrees Offered  
Baccalaureate - 60  
Master's - 67  
Doctorate - 40

Average HS GPA  
3.43

Source: www.vcu.edu

## Paying for College

It's the dream of many young athletes: to parlay their skills into a college scholarship and, eventually, a career as a professional. But how often does this really happen? According to the NCAA, only 3.1% of high school boys who play basketball become college athletes, and only 1.2% of NCAA basketball players become professionals. Put another way, only .03% of the 540,207 boys playing high school basketball will make it to the NBA. NCAA.org cites similar statistics for football, baseball, soccer, and women's basketball.

The good news is that athletic scholarships are only one way to finance a col-

lege education. Other options include the following: **Scholarships**—awarded by colleges and organizations and based on academic achievement or financial need.

**Grants** — awarded by federal and state governments and colleges, usually based on need.

**Loans** — available to parents and students at low interest rates.

**Work-Study** — part-time campus jobs to help students with financial need.

**529 Plans** — tax advantaged college savings plans for as little as \$25 per month.

Future newsletters will look at more ways to make college affordable for all.

## College of the Month

One of the Cinderella stories of this year's NCAA men's basketball tournament, Virginia Commonwealth University offers 16 NCAA Division I sports in the Colonial Athletic Association as well as intramural sports and over

300 student organizations. A public research university recognized for its discoveries in public policy, biotechnology, and health care, VCU includes schools of medicine, pharmacy, social work, and the arts and offers 216 degree and

### Website of the Month

[www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)



According to its website, the NCAA has over 400,000 student-athletes, and "most will go pro in something other than sports." High school students, coaches, counselors and parents can visit this site to learn about academic eligibility, financial aid, and recruiting rules. The site also includes a downloadable version of its *Guide for the College-Bound Student Athlete* and links to the NCAA Clearinghouse. Check it out!



certificate programs. VCU's School of the Arts is ranked as one of the nation's top arts and design schools. Go, Rams!

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# The College Connection

## School Spotlight: SHHS

Approximately fifteen recent SHHS graduates returned to the school in December to participate in a panel discussion on "What College is Really Like." The college students discussed personal responsibility, time management, sororities and fraternities, professors who love their subject but not their students, and the challenge of living with sloppy roommates. "It was magic," says College Prep teacher Kathy Thornhill.

South High also commissioned professionally-made posters to hang outside teachers' rooms showing them in their college gear or with their alma maters represented through props in the background. The posters have prompted many college conversations between staff and students. Thanks to Assistant Principal Sherry Hamilton for sharing the photos below.



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How is your school creating  
a college-going culture?  
Send your activities and  
photos to Lori Parks-  
Murphy for publication in  
future issues of *The College  
Connection*.

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