

PROGRAMS

VFIC MEMBER COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Bridgewater College
Emory & Henry College
Hampden-Sydney College
Hollins University
Lynchburg College
Mary Baldwin College
Marymount University
Randolph-Macon College
Randolph-Macon Woman's College
Roanoke College
Shenandoah University
Sweet Briar College
University of Richmond
Virginia Wesleyan College
Washington and Lee University

The mission of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges is to advance the distinctive values and strengths of these smaller, undergraduate residential Virginia member colleges. We do this by securing financial support from the private sector, increasing visibility, facilitating innovative and collaborative initiatives between the colleges, and supporting initiatives which ensure that this personalized educational experience remains an affordable choice for tomorrow's citizen-leaders.



VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES



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UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM

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Since 1952, the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges (VFIC) has been securing gifts and grants from corporations, foundations and individuals to strengthen the academic programs at 15 leading private colleges and universities in the Commonwealth. The VFIC's mission is based on the abiding belief that Virginia benefits greatly by having high quality, traditional liberal arts colleges within the Commonwealth, and that having a strong private college sector is also important to Virginia's economic development, its workforce development and its overall quality of life.

Today our 15 colleges are actively working to increase the number of students entering careers in the sciences, math and engineering. In support of this effort, the VFIC has begun an initiative to expand the number of students engaged in undergraduate research in the sciences on the campuses. This initiative involves supporting students in 10-week summer research projects on their campuses, and working one-on-one with science faculty on intensive projects which often lead to publications and presentations at professional conferences. In pursuing such experiences, students gain new insight and enthusiasm about the sciences, and learn laboratory and research skills which give them an advantage on admission to graduate school and science-related careers.

We ask you to be a partner with us in this initiative. In addition to seeking general support, we offer two named gift opportunities for donors to help underwrite a student's undergraduate research project:

- **Sponsor -- \$5,000**
- **Co-Sponsor -- \$2,500**

Each 10-week project requires a total of \$5,000 to cover all costs for:

- student summer stipend
- room and board on campus
- honorarium for the faculty mentor
- laboratory expenses and supplies
- other expenses (books, travel, software)



INVESTMENT BENEFITS

In supporting a student for a summer research project, donors will receive:

- Special recognition on a VFIC college campus, as each student recipient will be recognized as carrying a named Sponsorship or Co-Sponsorship.
- Recognition in the VFIC Annual Report.
- The satisfaction of giving these students the opportunity to undertake a significant academic research project, while working one-on-one with a dedicated faculty mentor.
- The satisfaction of helping to increase the number of VFIC students heading to graduate school and pursuing careers in the sciences.

Your support for this important initiative will allow students to participate in research projects and secure brighter futures for motivated young men and women in the sciences.