



## **Hollins Receives “Teaching with Today’s Technology” Grant from VFIC, Verizon Foundation**

Roanoke, Va. – Hollins University is one of five Virginia colleges to be awarded a \$20,000 “Teaching with Today’s Technology” grant from the Verizon Foundation through a program of the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges (VFIC).

The funding program is designed to enhance the education and skills of students from VFIC member institutions who are heading to careers in teaching K – 12. Bridgewater College, Marymount University, Sweet Briar College, and Virginia Wesleyan College joined Hollins as grant recipients for 2011.

“In a world of near-constant technological advances, it’s critical that students and educators alike have the skills and resources to take advantage of these advances,” said Robert Woltz, Jr., president of Verizon Virginia. ““Teaching with Today’s Technology’ is an initiative that will develop the educators who will develop tomorrow’s business and governmental leaders.”

At Hollins, grant funds will be used to redesign and enhance the education program’s classroom technology integration course. Goals of the project include:

- Enhancing instruction on the conceptual role of technology in the K – 12 classroom, and its importance to the K – 12 teaching and learning experience;
- Providing specific instruction in the use of the latest technologies and software available to teachers;
- Continuing to expose Hollins’ pre-service teachers, via the faculty who teach the classroom technology integration course, to Verizon Thinkfinity, a free educational

website that contains thousands of engaging, educational resources for teachers, parents, and students, including K-12 lesson plans, in-class activities, and educational videos and games;

- Continuing to teach and emphasize the eight technology goals for teachers as outlined by the Virginia Department of Education using the latest technology; and
- Continuing to emphasize that competence with technology is one important facet of striving for excellence as a teacher.

The grant will also enable Hollins to upgrade one of its computer labs to include the Adobe CS4 Design Premium Suite and to send two faculty members to Adobe Photoshop and DreamWeaver workshops. As part of the project, a trainer from the U.S. Department of Education will provide a Thinkfinity instructional lab for Hollins faculty and Roanoke Valley teachers.

Hollins is one of fifteen leading private colleges in the Commonwealth supported by the VFIC, a nonprofit partnership that secures gifts and grants for its member institutions, increases their visibility, facilitates collaborative initiatives among the colleges, and promotes programs that ensure these colleges remain an affordable choice for young men and women. The Verizon Foundation is one of the VFIC's most distinguished corporate sponsors, contributing more than \$3.4 million over the course of fifty-six years. Since 1998, Verizon's commitment to improve student learning and faculty instructional effectiveness has made a meaningful impact on colleges across the Commonwealth.

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