



The Peninsula's Community College

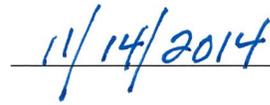
*Response of
Thomas Nelson Community College
to the Impact of the
Aging of Virginia's Population*

Signature Page

Pursuant to Code of Virginia §§ 2.2-5510 and 51.5-136, Thomas Nelson Community College submits this report of its progress in addressing the impact of the aging of Virginia's population.

 for

Dr. John T. Dever, President
Thomas Nelson Community College



Date

Executive Summary

Thomas Nelson serves the aging population by providing educational programs and services. Services provided to seniors include continuing education opportunities, free tuition for those who qualify, workshops to prepare and plan for retirement, facilities meeting ADA standards, and reduced transportation rates. Thomas Nelson partners with community agencies to include AARP, the Williamsburg Senior Coalition and the Center for Aging and Lifelong Health to respond to current and future needs that impact the aging population.

Overview of the agency's mission, roles, and responsibilities:

Thomas Nelson Community College 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.

For more than forty-five years, Thomas Nelson has been carrying out its comprehensive mission to provide residents of the Virginia Peninsula with readily available and affordable access to the benefits of higher education and preparation for careers. The College has made a difference for countless individuals who have been able to realize their aspirations for a better life for themselves and their families.

Thomas Nelson faculty and staff carry out our mission with deep commitments to excellence, to the success of our students, and to strengthening the social, economic, and cultural fabric of our community. We believe that all benefit when each person has the opportunity to realize his or her full potential for educational attainment and career advancement.

Information Requested:

1. If your agency has undertaken any actions to respond to the current and future impact of an aging population, such as needs assessments, strategic planning, or use of best practices, please briefly describe those actions. Please indicate what assistance from DARS could help your agency as it prepares to serve an aging Virginia population.
 - a. Thomas Nelson's facilities meet current ADA standards which support all individuals, to include persons with disabilities and the elderly.
 - b. Thomas Nelson's Workforce Training and Continuing Education (WTCE) is responsible for working with the Williamsburg Senior Coalition and the Center for Aging and Lifelong Health in implementing Family Caregiver training to help families with seniors that choose to age "in place." WTCE is also developing a Dementia Care certificate training for healthcare providers for spring 2015.
 - c. Thomas Nelson's succession plan provides opportunities for continuation of operations in the event of sudden retirements or staff turnover.
2. Briefly describe your agency's services that are used primarily by older Virginians and the funding streams (types and amounts) that support those services. If these particular services or funding streams are provided in conjunction with other state or local agencies or other for profit or non-profit organizations, please list them:
 - a. Under the Senior Citizens Higher Education Act of 1974 and amendments, Virginia residents over age 60 participate in Continuing Education, self-support classes that are at no cost as long as the class has enough paid enrollment to cover the class costs; seniors are only required to pay for books and any examination fees that apply. WTCE also offers custom training for seniors as requested by other organizations, such as AARP. Seniors can participate in grant-funded programs such as the Triangle Entrepreneur Exchange at no cost, this year it was supported by a local donor through the Thomas Nelson Educational Foundation.
 - b. Senior citizens 60 years of age or older who are legal residents of Virginia may also be eligible to register for credit classes at no cost if they audit the class or have a taxable income that does not exceed \$15,000 for state income tax purposes.
 - c. Thomas Nelson provides educational waivers once our paying students have registered for a class. If there is room, we offer these classes to senior citizens free of charge.

- d. Thomas Nelson works with AARP to provide work experience to those looking to enhance their skills.
- e. The number of credit students 60 years of age and older by gender from Fall 2010 through Fall 2013 are listed below.

Headcount of Thomas Nelson Credit Students in 60+ Age Groups By Fall Term

Age Group	Fall 2010		Fall 2011		Fall 2012		Fall 2013	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
60-64	16	39	17	35	9	39	15	31
65-74	3	13	7	17	4	15	2	13
75-84	3	1	1	0	2	0	0	0
85+	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes:

- 1. Age is calculated as of September 1 of the year of the fall term reported.

Data source: VCCS Student CRT Files

- 3. Identify current agency programs specifically designed to serve older Virginians that fall into any of the following eight categories:
 - a. Health Care/Wellness – Thomas Nelson’s WTCE provides Family Caregiver; Nurse Aide Education and Dementia Care offerings for healthcare workers
 - b. Education – Thomas Nelson’s WTCE provides computer training for this population.
 - c. Accessibility – Thomas Nelson facilities follow current ADA codes. We utilize automatic door openers and installed hands free faucets and hand driers.
 - d. Financial Security – Thomas Nelson’s WTCE offers Retirement Planning, Rejuvenate Your Retirement seminars in conjunction with Human Resources.
 - e. Transportation – Thomas Nelson constructed an ADA accessible bus stop. The College provides reduced 30-day unlimited bus tickets which are available to seniors at a special rate of \$30 (HRT) and \$12.50 (WATA). Tickets may be purchased at the cashier’s window at the Hampton and Historic Triangle Campuses. These rates are less than the reduced rate available to other students enrolled at the college.
- 4. Over the next five to 10 years, in what ways do you anticipate that an aging population will impact your agency’s services, funding streams, or policies? Consider the impact from an increase in the number of older Virginians and whether the needs of older Virginians will differ from those of today’s older adults. Please include any anticipated

impacts upon the cost of services, changes in type of services or the manner of service delivery, or modifications to agency policies, staffing needs, or procedures.

Thomas Nelson anticipates more working seniors and additional interest in maintaining careers beyond mandatory retirement age. Because the aging population is steadily increasing, more senior citizens are expected to enter higher education and will require expanded services that meet their needs such as transportation and support seminars that respond to their unique situations.

5. Please describe the primary steps that should be taken at the federal, state, or local levels to meet the future demands of older Virginians and to make services delivery more effective and efficient.

Some states fund community college programs designed to serve the over-sixty population; such funding in Virginia would allow new initiatives. Realizing that more senior citizens will enroll at our colleges and universities, course offerings, delivery methods and support services should be designed with their educational needs in mind.

6. Identify the extent to which your agency provides “customer-oriented” publications and websites that are designed to be “senior-friendly.” If the information you currently provide is not readily accessible to older Virginians, please identify any steps your agency is taking to improve their access to this information.

Efforts to reflect publications that are "customer friendly" and "senior friendly" are as follows:

- Increased font size 11 font or larger
- Enlarged/full page photos in publications

Thomas Nelson’s Strategic Plan for Internet Accessibility Compliance is currently at 94%. There are plans for improving that number as a result of a redesign.