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close-up

As a high school student, Quintin B. Bullock participated in a pre-college entrance program that set the foundation for his career.

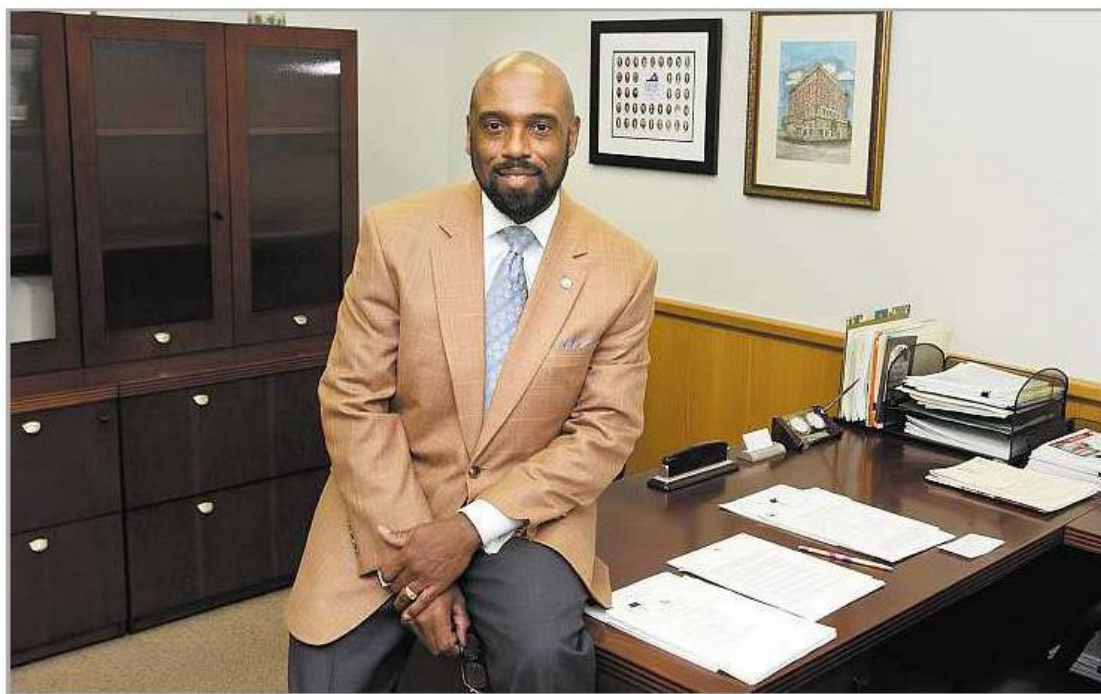
"I am a product of Upward Bound," said the provost for Tidewater Community College's Virginia Beach Campus.

"The program engaged me in numerous math and science activities that piqued my interest," Bullock wrote via e-mail.

"Further, the program connected me with the college professors that mentored and recognized my talent for the sciences."

The early exposure and encouragement was the catalyst for his pursuit of both bachelor's and master's degrees in science. A pre-med track led to dentistry as his professional focus, but tangentially he discovered his strongest niche was teaching.

As an educator he has taught public school and held community college adjunct faculty positions. He continues to develop science-minded students by teaching a biology class at TCC.



Quintin Bullock

Pre-college program piqued a student's interests and laid the foundation for an educator's career

INTERVIEW BY VICTORIA BOURNE | THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

What have you enjoyed most since becoming provost of the Virginia Beach campus in May 2006? Establishing and sharing a vision for the future of the campus; interacting and strengthening ties with faculty, staff and students; promoting student success and campus academic programs; forging new partnerships; developing new relationships with community leaders; and sharing in the development of future leaders and employees.

What are the biggest challenges you face as provost? To develop and offer courses that reach a diverse student body, and reaching growing segments of the population (i.e. non-native English speakers) that have an increasing presence in the community.

How did dentistry prepare you for what you're doing now? My dental studies prepared me to be a hard worker, a strong critical thinker, ethical, organized, an independent thinker and a confident leader.

Describe a TCC graduate in two words Well prepared

What is your favorite 5 minutes of the day? Time I spend talking with students across campus and throughout the community

Favorite weekend activity Teaching an entry-level biology class to a diverse group of students to enhance their motivation, learning and preparation to enter a health profession.

If you could invite three famous people, living or dead, to dinner, who would they be? The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy, Bill Clinton

Who would play you in a movie based on your life? Sidney Poitier

Favorite hangout New York City theater

Favorite gadget Vacuum cleaner

What recently purchased CD would you recommend to a friend? Donald Lawrence and the Tri-City Singers

What book is on your "must read" list? "The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century"

Pet peeve Keeping a dirty house and leaving dishes in the kitchen sink

Hobbies Fishing, gardening, leisure reading

One thing people don't know about

you I am an excellent cook and I barbecue extremely well.

What is your favorite comfort food? Fritos

If you could watch only one television series for the rest of your life, what would it be? "ER"

Dream vacation A long trip to Paris, France and Australia

Who is your personal role model? Betty Jo Hopkins, first African-American female to receive a Ph.D. in neurophysics from the University of Rochester - and my mentor

Favorite sports and/or sports team Baseball, Houston Astros

If you could possess one superpower, what would it be? A healer

What was the first car you ever owned? 1966 Dodge Polara

Of what achievements are you most proud? Successful completion of three college degrees

When given an opportunity, what words of wisdom do you share with students at TCC? Stay focused, work hard and keep your eye on your dream.

Bio

Full name Quintin B. Bullock

Neighborhood L & J Gardens

Hometown Houston, Texas

Age 49

Nickname Quint

Marital status Single

Occupation Provost, TCC Virginia Beach campus

Personal motto "Don't give up. I can do it."

Good luck charm I don't have one - I have my faith, and I believe in hard work and positive, strategic thinking.