

# The Virginian-Pilot

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## COMMENCEMENT



AMANDA LUCIER PHOTOS | THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Aaron Ross, left, and Danica Royster celebrate their graduation from Tidewater Community College during commencement on Friday at Old Dominion's Ted Constant Convocation Center. In photo below, Stephanie Yates watches the crowd file in for the commencement ceremony.

## TCC graduates hear call to act

*U.Va. president says they're the engine of economic recovery*

By Denise Watson Batts  
The Virginian-Pilot

### NORFOLK

A native son returned Friday night to tell Tidewater Community College graduates that they are an engine to drive the nation to an economic recovery.

Portsmouth-born John T. Casteen III, the president of the University of Virginia, was commencement speaker for TCC's ceremony at the Ted Constant

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“Seek ways to make life better for those around you.”

John T. Casteen III, the president of the University of Virginia and Portsmouth native



Keyontae Harvey, 5, left, and his cousin, Keon Harvey, 5, wave at their uncle, Tayone Harvey, who was among the students graduating from Tidewater Community College on Friday.

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TCC GRADUATION

# U.VA. PRESIDENT URGES SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

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Convocation Center at Old Dominion University.

"You and your classmates, not only here, but at Norfolk State, Old Dominion, Virginia Wesleyan," Casteen told the almost 600 graduates, "are the solution ... the education and the career and technical training have prepared you."

This weekend marks the last of the area's midyear commencement exercises. Old Dominion has more than 1,800 candidates eligible for two ceremonies today at the Ted. TCC had more than 1,700 who'd qualified for as-

sociate degrees, certificates and diplomas Friday.

Casteen, who will retire next year after 20 years as president, told the graduates that the next two years of their lives will be critical as they move into or remain in the work force or attend another institution.

No matter what course they choose, Casteen said, they need to include community service:

"Seek ways to make life better for those around you."

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William Phillips, who has cerebral palsy, steps from his wheelchair to walk across the stage and receive his associate's degree Friday. "I haven't walked like that in five years," said Phillips, who plans to attend ODU to study public health. With him were, from left, Emily Hartman, student activities coordinator for TCC's Norfolk campus; Deborah DiCroce, TCC president; and Ted Tyler, a counselor at the Portsmouth campus.