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NEW SERVICE

TCC SHUTTLE TO GIVE STUDENTS LIFTS BETWEEN ITS CAMPUSES

By Elisabeth Hulette
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NORFOLK

Tidewater Community College launched a shuttle service Monday, a pack of three buses that will ferry students among the college's four campuses.

The service, dubbed the TCC Campus Connector, starts Thursday.

Students who attended the official launch in Norfolk said the buses are long overdue. For those without

easy access to cars, getting from one campus to another for classes can be difficult, expensive and time-consuming.

"This is something I will use," said Joseph Gaskins, a second-year business student who takes classes primarily in Chesapeake. "Because as much as I can save gas, that really helps."

The shuttles will run every half hour from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 5 to 11 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Rides will be free through Sept. 9, then will cost \$3 each, or \$6 per round-trip. The buses won't take cash; students will need to use debit or credit cards.

College officials said as long as the buses are at least 50 percent full, the program should break even and come at no cost to TCC. The college signed a one-year contract with Carey Transportation to supply and drive the buses.

Three routes will run from the Norfolk, Portsmouth and Chesapeake campuses, each to Virgin-

ia Beach. The Portsmouth shuttle will also stop at the Visual Arts Center.

Students who need to travel between other campuses – from Norfolk to Chesapeake, for example – can change shuttle lines in Virginia Beach.

TCC President Deborah M. DiCroce called the buses a literal sign of how TCC is one school, and not just a collection of campuses.

The school is trying to integrate its student body, in part by building new student centers, said James Boyd, a former TCC student who now works for the college.

And if the shuttles are popular enough, the college will add more buses and lines, he said.

"I've seen it where students can't graduate because a class in radiology is in Virginia Beach and they can't get there," Boyd said. "Students will tell you, this will be a great thing."

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