

# The Virginian-Pilot

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TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE | STATE OF THE COLLEGE ADDRESS

## School is growing while dealing with cuts

By Vicki L. Friedman  
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### NORFOLK

It's the best of times and the worst of times, and Tidewater Community College is in the muck of it all.

That was the message college President Deborah M. DiCroce delivered in her State of the College address at the fall invocation Monday morning at Roper Performing Arts Center near TCC's downtown campus.

"Never before has the spotlight been more brightly fixed on community colleges nationally and on TCC locally," DiCroce said.

The college is enjoying unprecedented growth – an unduplicated annual head count of close to 50,000 is expected for the 2010-11 year – and the operating budget is feeling the effects of lost resources. That includes



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**Tidewater Community College President Deborah M. DiCroce gives her State of the College address Monday.**

28 percent of TCC's general fund portion, or \$14 million, even as the college "is in the midst of a virtual tsunami of individuals from all walks of life turning to us to help them navigate these raging waters toward calmer seas," DiCroce said.

The largest area of growth continues to be in full-time students, ages 18-24, and in African-Americans. TCC has the largest undergraduate African-American enrollment of any higher education institution in the state.

Budget cuts have forced

the college to abolish 65 vacancies and rely more heavily on adjunct faculty. Since 2007-08, TCC's in-state tuition has increased 32 percent. DiCroce noted 62 percent of the college's operating budget now comes from tuition and fees as opposed to the 33 percent in 2000-01.

There is no shortage of capital improvement projects. Portsmouth opened a 183,000-square-foot facility last spring. A regional health professions center is set to open this spring on the Virginia Beach campus. The spring will also see the opening of the Norfolk Campus Student Center – the first of four. Student centers on the Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Virginia Beach campuses will be open by 2012.

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