



# TCC INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH BRIEF

## South Hampton Roads Hispanic Population and TCC Enrollment

According to the August 2000 issue of *Virginia Business*, Hispanics will be the largest minority group in the U.S. by the year 2025. Virginia, which has the 25<sup>th</sup> largest concentration of Hispanics, saw a 66% growth in the Hispanic population over the last decade. Hispanics are moving to Virginia for several reasons: 1) good paying jobs, 2) better cost of living than the big cities, 3) less crime, and 4) better opportunities for the future. As depicted in Table 1, the Hispanic population of South Hampton Roads grew by 39% since 1990.

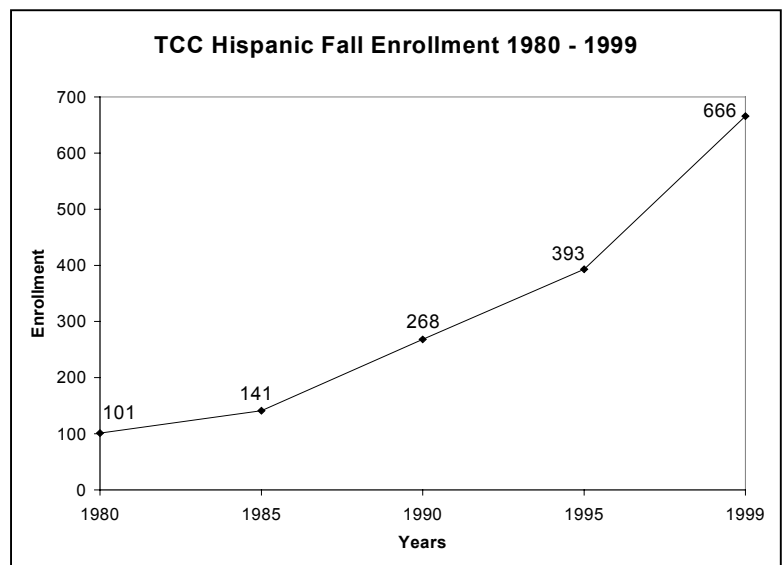
City	Hispanic Population		
	1990	1998	% Change
Chesapeake	1,925	3,662	90.0%
Norfolk	7,689	7,802	1.5%
Portsmouth	1,368	1,819	33.0%
Virginia Beach	12,363	19,161	55.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,345</b>	<b>32,444</b>	<b>39.0%</b>

**TABLE 1.** South Hampton Roads Hispanic Population

A demographic overview of Hispanic students enrolled at TCC mirrors the general TCC student population. The majority is female (53%), part-time (73%), returning students (73%), and enrolled in day classes (83%). Moreover, the average age is 29 years and almost half (49%) is enrolled in a college transfer program. Most Hispanic students (64%) attend the Virginia Beach Campus, which corresponds to the fact that 55% of TCC's Hispanic student population resides in Virginia Beach. Seventeen percent of the students reside in Norfolk, and 11% reside in Chesapeake. A comparative overview with the total TCC student enrollment is found in Table 2.

In summary, the growing Hispanic population of the region is reflected in TCC's Hispanic enrollment. Similar to the average TCC student, most are enrolled for the purpose of transferring to a four-year institution or upgrading employment skills. It is anticipated that TCC's Hispanic enrollment will continue to grow and keep pace with the region's population growth projections. A common theme found among the TCC strategic planning white papers is the "need for a broad-based review of support services and course/curricular offerings to allow maximum accessibility to students of all backgrounds." The college "needs to provide opportunities to socialize, exchange ideas, and learn from and about others." These insights will become even more important as the college enrolls growing numbers of Hispanic students and others from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

The influx of the Hispanic population into South Hampton Roads is evidenced by Hispanic enrollment increases at TCC. In 1980, Hispanic enrollment comprised less than 1% of the college's total enrollment, and in fall 1999, it accounted for 3.4% of the enrollment. This is reflective of the overall population distribution of the TCC service area where Hispanics account for 3.4% of the total population. Figure 1 shows that during the last decade, Hispanic fall enrollment increased 149% from 268 students to 666 students.



**FIGURE 1.** TCC Hispanic Enrollment

TABLE 2

## Tidewater Community College 1999-2000 Student Profile

CATEGORY	HISPANIC STUDENTS	TOTAL STUDENTS
Annual Headcount	1,050	31,016
Full-time	27%	31%
Part-time	73%	69%
New	17%	21%
Returning	73%	70%
Transfer	10%	9%
College transfer	49%	49%
Occupational/technical	28%	30%
Unclassified	23%	21%
Male	47%	43%
Female	53%	57%
Chesapeake City	11%	20%
Norfolk City	17%	16%
Portsmouth City	5%	9%
Virginia Beach City	55%	46%
Day	83%	80%
Evening	17%	20%
18-21 years	22%	30%
22-29 years	39%	30%
30-34 years	15%	12%
35+	24%	28%
Average Age	29 years	29 years

