



**Ervin V. Griffin, Sr., Ed.D.**  
**President – Halifax Community College**  
**Weldon, North Carolina**

Biographical Sketch



Dr. Ervin V. Griffin, Sr. started his tenure as the fourth president of Halifax Community College (HCC) on Dec. 1, 2006. President Griffin made history at that time when he became the **1<sup>st</sup> African-American** President of Halifax Community College in 40 years. Selected by the HCC Board of Trustees and confirmed by the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges, Griffin not only brings impeccable credentials, but he also brings a wealth of knowledge and community college experience.

Griffin was also named the **1<sup>st</sup> President** of West Virginia State Community and Technical College (WVSCTC) in April of 2004 and also served as the Provost & Chief Operating Officer at WVSC-CTC and Vice-President for Student Affairs, West Virginia State College & the Community and Technical College. He served with distinction in various capacities on the West Virginia State Campus for over 17 years.

President Griffin also assembled the team of faculty, staff, students, and administrators that lead to a team of evaluators from the Higher Learning Commission visiting West Virginia State Community and Technical College for an initial accreditation visit on April 19-21, 2004. *The evaluation team unanimously recommended that the WVSCTC should receive 5 years [maximum] initial accreditation.* The quest for independent accreditation and the positive recommendation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association validated the quality of academic and workforce development programs and exemplary leadership provided by the WVSCTC administration, faculty, staff, and advisory board members to our internal and external constituents.

President Griffin also has served as Professor & Director of Student Development Services & Vocational Equity Programs, Patrick Henry Community College in Martinsville, Virginia. He was also the **1<sup>st</sup> African American Administrator and Professor** at Southwest Virginia Community College in Richlands Virginia. He also served as Counselor, Director of Student Financial Assistance, and Director of Student Activities at Southwest Virginia Community

College. He spent over 15 years in the Virginia Community College system in various administrative capacities.

President Griffin is a native of West Virginia and a former resident of McDowell County. He earned his B.S. degree in teacher education from Bluefield State College; M.S. Degree in College Student Personnel Services from Western Illinois University; Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Higher Education Administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; and the Doctorate of Education in Community College Education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

He also completed postdoctoral studies in College Management at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and the Millennium Leadership Institute sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Washington, D.C. Dr. Griffin is also a graduate of Leadership West Virginia, Class of 1994 and a 2008 graduate of Leadership Roanoke Valley.

In February 2007, Griffin began a high visibility campaign at Halifax Community College to highlight the campus and the academic & student services programs on campus. He brought a stamp dedication ceremony commemorating legendary jazz vocalist Ella Fitzgerald in 2007, Charles W. Chestnut in 2008, and the Civil Rights Pioneers in 2009 to HCC as part of Black History Month festivities. This was the first time that HCC had partnered with the U.S. Postal Service to bring a stamp dedication to campus.

President Griffin has also enhanced the student and community activities programming at HCC. In addition to the unique programming, students now access wireless internet installed during the Fall Semester 2008. The college now has an annual Founders Day program, Women's Day, American Indian Heritage Program, African American History Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Day, and Prostate Awareness Program. The college partners with 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Weldon to annually sponsor the "Balm in Gilead" program to promote AIDS awareness and prevention.

The Corporation for National and Community Service honored HCC in 2008 with a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities. In addition, our 2008-09 SGA was awarded the Top "C" Award from the North Carolina Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association (N4CSGA) and our SGA President was honored with the Michael Taylor Servant Leadership Award. Moreover, the chairperson of the HCC Board of Trustees was named 2008 Southern Region Trustee of the Year by the Association of Community College Trustees.

Griffin also partnered with the local newspaper [*Roanoke Rapids Daily Herald*] to publish two presidential columns each month called the *President's Perspective*. The purpose of his column is to provide a fresh perspective on a variety of educational topics. He also commissioned the college's **first academic mace** and established the *Presidential Initiatives Fund* in the HCC Foundation to provide funding for special projects dealing with faculty, staff, student, and equipment needs.

President Griffin has implemented an aggressive enrollment management and resource development programs at HCC. The enrollment management program has resulted in substantial increases in headcount and full time equivalent enrollments. Fall Semester 2008 enrollment increased by 5% to 1375 and Spring Semester 2009 enrollment increased by 11% to 1,446. In addition, the continuing education and workforce development division serve 3,316. HCC now serves over 5,000 students each semester.

The challenge of working with African American Males continues to be a struggle in higher education. President Griffin has secured a **\$600,000** grant from the US Department of Education to help African American males enroll and graduate from HCC. The project entitled, **Freedom to Learn**, provides learning coaches for students, internships, externships, tutoring, and a mentoring program. The Freedom to Learn project is one of the most unique in the nation for a rural community college focusing on the educational outcomes of African American males to increase satisfaction, retention, and graduation rates.

Griffin also secured funding for an allied health project in April 2009. Congressman G.K. Butterfield provided a federal appropriation of **\$190,000** for the project. The project will provide a state-of-the-art, on-site Human Patient Simulator for the training of allied health students in a “virtual class setting”. The lab will offer skill training and provide hands-on training and skill development for emergency medical, allied health, and nursing personnel for other health organizations in the region.

President Griffin also implemented a new project in the area of workforce development. HCC now offers the Career Readiness Certificate. The Turning Point Workforce Development Board partnered with HCC to provide the job skills assessment program to employees and students in our region. The CRS program was also offered to graduating seniors in Halifax County Schools and 31 students received their CRC Certificate in addition to their high school diplomas.

HCC has also implemented a new long range plan and facilities master plan to guide the development of programs and facilities for the campus. This was the first update of the facilities master plan in 10 years. The recently approved facilities master plan includes a project to build a new Academic and Student Service Center. In addition, the project will include an addition to the library and learning resource center. The advance planning phase for this project should be completed by Fall Semester 2008. In addition, Griffin has received approval from the Board of Trustees to implement new Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives (2009-2013) and a new Mission and Vision that will guide the future activities of HCC.

President Griffin has been very active in working with the business community in the Halifax Community College service region to promote workforce and economic development program since his appointment as President in December 2006. He currently serves on the following Boards:

- Halifax Horizons Workforce Development Board of Directors,
- Halifax-Warren Smart Start Partnership for Children Board,
- Halifax County Economic Development Commission Board (ex officio),
- Halifax County Educational Facilities Capital Improvement Planning Committee,
- Area Health Educational Center Regional Advisory Board,
- National Advisory Council of the American Student Association of Community Colleges
- Choanoke Area Development Association (CADA)
- Roanoke Valley Chamber of Commerce (Ex-Officio)
- Roanoke Rapids Theater Task Force
- Griffin is also a member of the Roanoke Rapids Rotary Club

Griffin is also a consultant in the area of leadership training for church groups and others. The leadership develop program is aimed at helping leaders gain insights into their different behavioral profiles and identifying those tendencies and how they interact with other of the same style and those that are different. The **Biblical Personal Profile System** has received excellent reviews from church leaders and members of the Temple of Faith Ministries and the Piedmont

District Convention (Disciples of Christ) Bible Institute, Reidsville, North Carolina. He serves as director of Christian Education for 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church of Weldon, NC.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. also named Griffin the **Outstanding Alumni Brother of the Year**. He is the first Graduate Brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity from the District of West Virginia to hold this distinct honor. He was chosen for his excellent record of fraternal service, personal growth, economic development, community service, and participation in fraternal programs, scholarship, and overall achievement.

Among the many other honors bestowed upon President Griffin include the **Governors Living the Dream Award by the W.Va. Martin Luther King Holiday Commission**; and he was elected seven times as the West Virginia State College Student Government Association – **Administrator of the Year**. He also received the “*Community Impact Award*” from the West Virginia Minority Business Development Center (September 16, 2005) and was inducted into the ***West Virginia State University Sports Hall of Fame*** for his loyalty and continuous support of student athletic programs at State on October 15, 2005.

President Griffin was recently awarded the **2008 Distinguished Service Award** in recognition of his exceptional leadership and devoted service by the London Missionary Baptist Church at its annual Black History Observance on February 16, 2008. The Halifax Community College Trustees, Students, Faculty, Staff, and Administration on February 19, 2008 also honored him as a **Local African American Hero** for his ground-breaking achievements and untiring service on behalf of Halifax County and the Roanoke Valley Region of North Carolina.

The West Virginia All Black High Schools Sports and Academic Hall of Fame inducted President Griffin during a ceremony in September 2008. Griffin received the **Lifetime Achievement Award** based on his many achievements and service to humankind. In February 2009, he was also honored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority for his contributions to the Roanoke Valley region.

President Griffin is a former member of Temple of Faith Ministries, Cross Lanes, West Virginia and is now a member of the First Baptist Church of Weldon, North Carolina. He has one Son Ervin V. Griffin, Jr., a Bluefield Resident and a 1998 graduate of Concord College, Athens, West Virginia.

3/10/08

6/15/09