

On King Day, Impact Center holds grand opening

BY JIMMY SHOCKLEY
Eastern Shore Post

The Impact Center at Cape Charles Elementary, a former Washington-Rosenwald School, held its grand opening on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 19, with almost 200 people in attendance.

The event marked the completion of remodeling at the long-abandoned Cape Charles Elementary School, which will now serve as a community hub.

“I always had a dream that one day, right here on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, this building would be a place where unity resided, not just in words, but in action,” said Teyva Griffin, the founder and president of the Cape Charles Rosenwald School Restoration Initiative.

The CCRSRI bought the building in 2019 for \$275,000 and began the long process of acquiring funding and remodeling it.

Those in attendance at the grand opening hailed from varying backgrounds, including former students of the school, area residents who worked on the restoration project, and family members of former school staff.

Also in attendance was John Nottingham, the last surviving teacher of the school.

The Impact Center will act as a community center and gathering place for Cape Charles and the surrounding community.

The building contains a community kitchen, an auditorium, and other spaces.

The Impact Center has also partnered with Eastern Shore Community College to offer classes for lower Northampton County students to allow them to have a shorter commute to school.

Eastern Shore Community College President Daryl Minus spoke at the event.

Richard Press Sr., a school alumnus and member of the center’s advisory



Teyva Griffin, the founder and president of the Cape Charles Rosenwald School Restoration Initiative, speaks while Roberta Newman and Richard Press Sr., board members, listen during the grand opening.

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board, said he can remember when he and his classmates had to walk from town to school, traversing the overpass that is colloquially known as “the hump.”

“The hump was a division” during segregated times, Press said. He said crossing “the hump” meant going into an area where Black children were

more comfortable and able to express themselves.

The school first opened in 1929 as part of an initiative to educate Black children during legalized segregation, according to the CCRSRI’s website.

It operated as an all-Black school until 1966, and shortly thereafter became a seafood processing plant,

which closed in 1977.

Many Eastern Shore residents remember the building wearing lettering reminiscent of its days as a seafood processing plant, but back in 2009, Griffin saw much more than that.

“It was screaming that it was more than was just written on the side,” Griffin said.

GRAND OPENING AT THE IMPACT CENTER AT CAPE CHARLES ELEMENTARY



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At left, Diego Maldonado Vera sings during the grand opening of the Impact Center at Cape Charles Elementary on Monday, Jan. 19. A large crowd attended the event.

**Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission
Fiscal 2024-2025 Summary Statement of Financial Condition**

As required by the Code of Virginia § 30-140, a summary of the financial condition of the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year is hereby published. The Commission's complete financial activity is issued in separate financial statements. These statements can be obtained from the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission, P.O. Box 417, Accomac, VA 23301.

Financial Condition Summary

<u>Statement of Net Position Summary</u>		<u>Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position Summary</u>	
Total Assets	\$ 3,650,101	Total Operating Revenues	\$ 3,902,412
Deferred Outflows	\$ 189,633	Total Operating Expenditures	\$ (3,802,936)
Total Liabilities	\$ 840,162	Operating Income	\$ 99,476
Deferred Inflows	\$ 153,421	Other Sources	243,229
Total Net Position	\$ 2,846,151	Other (Uses)	
		Total Other Sources (Uses)	243,229
		Change in Net Position	\$ 342,705



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ESCC President Takes “Community” Off-Campus

The “community” in community college has always been at the forefront of the ESCC mission and, as witnessed this weekend, it is taken very seriously by college president, Dr. Daryl Minus. Leading ESCC since July 1, 2025, Dr. Minus has spent a considerable amount of time immersing himself with community leaders, local organizations, and all things “Eastern Shore”.

On Saturday, Dr. Minus was one of a group of community “dippers” who braved the cold January waters of Camp Occohannock on the Bay in their annual “Polar Duck Dip”. This annual event is the organization’s major fundraiser that funds capital improvements and expands programs and scholarships to the popular resource that has impacted such a large cross-section of area youth over the years.

“I am so impressed and amazed by the incredible breadth of offerings and programs the camp has offered the Shore. Their reputation as such a vibrant and influential resource has been cited by many students and others, for helping shape young people and prepare them for future success”, Dr. Minus commented.

Minus further noted, “I’m reminded of the dedication our former president Dr. Dick Jenkins had to Camp Occohannock. I attended his funeral service soon after I arrived on the



Dr. Minus participated in Saturday’s Polar Duck Dip and Monday’s Impact Center Open House on MLK Jr. Day.

Shore and was immediately touched by hearing testimony about his commitment there. I was flattered to be asked to participate and, though I’m still thawing out, I had a great time and was proud to help.”

On the following Monday this week, Dr. Minus was once again involved in another major local event acknowledging Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the unveiling of a newly restored historic landmark on the Shore. “It was an honor to deliver the keynote address at the grand opening of the Impact Center, a Washington Rosenwald School at Cape Charles Elementary. The Impact Center will build on its historic legacy and become a hub for community engagement and empowerment on Virginia’s Eastern Shore. The opportunity to participate in this event on Dr. Martin Luther King Day was a perfect way to honor his service, contributions, and sacrifice.”

Dr. Minus addressed a standing room only crowd at the refurbished site where other speakers included students from the original Cape Charles Elementary School, project coordinators and board members, and a number of community leaders. Eastern Shore Community College will be offering programs available at the Impact Center and plans are underway to begin its service to the community. As Minus addressed the audience on the King holiday, he further remarked that “community-driven change is made possible by uniting under shared interests, a unified vision, and collective ambition. We are all connected by what Dr. King describes as the ‘inescapable network of mutuality.’ We all have a role in creating the change that is necessary to enhance ideals of equity, shared community, and humanity. The work is not easy, but we owe it to future generations and the ones that came before us to keep pushing forward. Justice is a manifestation of hope through intentional action.” Pictures and video from this event can be viewed on ESCC Facebook and Instagram.

These community events and the involvement of Eastern Shore Community College speak directly to our “YES!” culture. “Your Eastern Shore” continues to guide our college efforts internally and externally. As our spring semester gets underway, we remind students that it’s always a good time to let us help you find YOUR “YES!”. Come see us about the upcoming 2nd 8-week session beginning in March and our continued selection of Workforce Development offerings!

Call 757-789-1720 or email studentservices@es.vccs.edu for more information.



2026 OYSTER ROAST

**Friday, January 30th from 5:30 to 8:30 PM
at the ESCC Workforce Great Hall**



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