

A Brief History of Richard Bland College

1960



General Assembly Establishes Richard Bland College

RBC becomes a “separate college under the supervision, management, and control [of the W&M] Board,” which governs the Colleges of W&M

1966



General Assembly Establishes Virginia Community College System

“to create a new approach to providing educational opportunity.”

1971



Norris v State Council for Higher Education (SCHEV)

U.S. District Court injunction blocks escalation to a four-year college, claiming it would “frustrate VSU efforts to desegregate.”

2013



Return of Intercollegiate Athletics

NJCAA sports and housing attract out-of-state and international student-athletes; two national championship titles (men’s basketball and women’s volleyball) by 2023.

2025



General Assembly Creates RBC’s Board of Visitors

On April 2, the General Assembly removes RBC governance from W&M board and creates new 9-member RBC governing board, effective July 1

1960

1962

1966

1969

1971

2008

2013

2022

2025

2026

1962



General Assembly Dissolves W&M System

RPI (now VCU) and Norfolk College (now ODU) gain independence. Christopher Newport College (now CNU) gained independence in 1977.

1969



General Assembly Approves RBC’s “Escalation” to Become a Four-year College

Approved to broaden programming to include upper-level baccalaureate degrees, including BA and BS.

2008



Transition to Residential Campus

Freedom and Patriot Halls open to support “university-parallel” mission and make RBC the state’s only residential, two-year college



2022

Campus adds 80-acre Business Innovation Park

Commercial development generates new revenue, expands paid internships and contributes to regional economic development

2026



Board Approves Campus Master Plan

New Master Plan new sports park, expanded business park and re-purposed Statesman Hall.



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