

## In Memoriam

Paul Lee  
Blue Ridge Community College  
1990-2008

We pay homage to Paul Lee for his signature contributions to the Virginia Community College System, to Blue Ridge Community College, to his faculty, and to our students. As we mourn the loss of our colleague, we take comfort that his spirit remains with us, for Paul Lee is the quintessence of what we in the VCCS aspire to do and to be.

When Blue Ridge hired Paul in 1990 to serve as Dean of Business and Humanities, he earned immediate admiration for his managerial and motivational skills as well as for his dedication to supporting faculty. Paul developed one of the seminal programs in our system to better integrate part-time faculty into the body of our professoriate and the life of the college. His professional character was an exemplum of the prescription handed down from Micah: “Do justly, and love mercy, and walk humbly before thy God.” In us, Paul inspired affection and respect.

In 1994, the VCCS called upon Paul to become a founding member of the Professional Development Committee. For these fourteen years past, his understanding of possibilities and practicalities has been a great blessing to us all, whether we knew him by name, or only by sight, or even if reading this memorial is our first contact with direct mention of his work. Paul never stood on ceremony -- he packed New Horizons program bags like the rest of us -- his company was always genial, his ideas insightful, and his suggestions gently imparted. As chair of the VCCS grants committee, Paul advocated tirelessly on behalf of faculty professional development opportunities. In recognition of his unparalleled work, VCCS grant opportunities have been renamed the Paul Lee Grants.

In many respects, Paul’s legacy in the VCCS is inestimable and ineffable. But any time we gather together at conferences like this one, any time we support each other’s work, any time we apply for a grant or publish a paper, any time we share teaching and learning, we in the VCCS bear witness to the legacy of Paul Lee.