



**Averett University | Bluefield University | Eastern Mennonite University | Ferrum College**

The Commonwealth Alliance for Rural Colleges is a 60-year-old non-profit organization whose mission is to provide our member institutions with resources to ensure their students have access to affordable, value-based education that prepares them for the global economy.

CARC member institutions contribute significantly to society, the economy and individual development. Among the reasons that members of CARC make a difference:

- **Diversity of Programs and Specializations:**
  - Our institutions often offer a diverse range of academic programs and specializations, allowing students the opportunity to study otherwise unavailable fields.
- **First-generation Engagement:**
  - Our institutions serve regions of the state and populations of students that historically have been underrepresented in higher education, notably first-generation and low-income students.
- **Innovation and Flexibility:**
  - Our institutions adapt quickly to changing educational needs and industry demands, fostering a culture of innovation in teaching and research.

- **Quality of Education:**

- Our institutions are known for their commitment to providing high-quality education by offering smaller class sizes, personalized attention and a focus on practical student engagement, contributing to better learning outcomes.

- **Global Perspective:**

- Our private institutions have a global outlook and attract students and faculty from diverse cultural backgrounds. This contributes to globalized learning environments, preparing students for an interconnected and interdependent world.

- **Job Placement and Industry Connections:**

- Our members establish strong connections with industries and businesses. This leads to meaningful internship opportunities, networking events and improved job placement for graduates, helping them transition into the workforce more smoothly.

- **Entrepreneurship and Business Incubation:**

- CARC members foster entrepreneurship and innovation. They support students in developing and launching their own businesses or startups, contributing to economic growth.

CARC leverages the unique capabilities of its members collectively, thus creating a stronger brand to reach donors. It also creates a simplified portal for donor support of multiple institutions through one contact point. Additionally, our members receive value from the increased donor engagement and from opening communications that create new partnerships that result in opportunities for our students.