



Amherst County Board of Supervisors  
County Resolution No. 2020-0004-R

**For consideration on April 7, 2020**

**A RESOLUTION, NO. 2020-0004-R**

A resolution supporting Sweet Briar College, expressing the many-layered bond between the College and the County, reaffirming the importance of the college to the County economy, and expressing the County's desire for state and federal governments not to neglect small-enrollment, rural colleges, and Sweet Briar College in particular.

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Approved as to form by the County Attorney

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**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF AMHERST, VIRGINIA:**

**I. That the Board of Supervisors of Amherst County hereby requests state and federal governments to take notice of the contribution that Sweet Briar College makes to its community, as follows:**

**WHEREAS**, Sweet Briar College ("College") has been an important charitable community institution in Amherst County for more than a century, and is regarded with affection and pride by members of the Amherst County community; and

**WHEREAS**, Sweet Briar is a remarkable college, with a significance that is disproportionate to its size as it best exemplifies the grit and courage of American women in education – and what private liberal arts colleges can do for rural America and for the empowerment of the women it graduates; and

**WHEREAS**, Sweet Briar College has been a stellar example of success among small liberal arts institutions, recognized by U.S. News and World Report last year as one of the "Most Innovative Liberal Arts Colleges" in the nation, and the most innovative in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of such accolades and the judicious actions of its management to innovate, Standard and Poors has upgraded Sweet Briar College's rating for three years in a row; and

**WHEREAS**, the College represents an annual infusion of \$25 million into the county and regional economy that includes employment to 300 people and a multiplier effect that creates 1200 further jobs, and whose students and employees add 650 residents to our population, and makes available its facilities, grounds, events and cultural activities to members of the local public; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the potential spread of COVID-19, the College suspended all its regular instruction in favor of online instruction for the remainder of the academic year, and like all other institutions of higher education, faces economic uncertainties that stem from such action; and

**WHEREAS**, Amherst County is already suffering through the closure of the Department of Behavior Health and Developmental Services' Central Virginia Training Center at a loss of approximately \$87 million per year to our local economy and over 2,000 jobs, and Sweet Briar College is critical for the economic viability of Amherst County; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal stimulus packages do not specifically address the compelling needs of small-enrollment, rural colleges that are vulnerable to economic downturns but are crucial to the economic, social, and cultural vitality of their host regions, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board is concerned with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the College and by extension, with the economic, cultural, historical, and personal injury on the County and the public as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board wishes to express its desire that the Governor direct specific aid and assistance to Sweet Briar College while pressing federal authorities to do the same for Sweet Briar and other small, rural colleges similarly situated.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF AMHERST, VIRGINIA:**

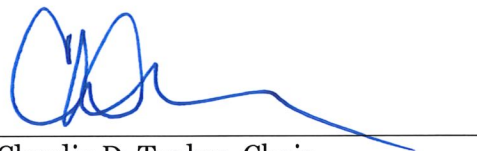
That the Board of Supervisors hereby requests that Governor Northam and all state and federal authorities devise strategies and appropriate funding to assist Sweet Briar College and other small-enrollment, rural colleges that are so important to the economic and cultural vibrancy of their local communities such that they may weather the COVID-19 related difficulties, and continue to make their outsized contributions to their communities and the nation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the Board of Supervisors directs staff to prepare this resolution for publication to the Governor and all legislative representatives who represent districts which include Amherst County, and to surrounding localities and appropriate organizations to solicit similar statements of resolve.

**II. That this resolution shall be in force and effect upon adoption.**

Adopted this 7th day of April, 2020.



Claudia D. Tucker, Chair  
Amherst County Board of Supervisors

**ATTEST:**



Dean C. Rodgers, Clerk

Ayes 5

Nays 0

Abstentions 0