

authority, which authority would then be vested in separate local boards of community college trustees. Chapter 538 of the Acts of 1976 maintained existing boards of trustees, and authorized the Governor to establish, upon petition of the respective counties, boards of trustees where no community colleges currently exist, upon approval of the State Board for Higher Education acting upon the recommendation of the State Board for Community Colleges. All local boards of trustees are appointed by the Governor, except in Baltimore City where appointments are made by the Mayor and City Council.

The State Board for Community Colleges establishes general policies for the operation of the State's community colleges. In addition, it conducts studies on the problems of community college education, assists the colleges in providing expert professional advice in all areas of their activities, reviews and advises upon all curriculum proposals for newly established community colleges and for proposed major additions to or modifications of programs in existing community colleges, and recommends, reviews, and advises upon proposals for the establishment of new community colleges. The Board also coordinates relationships among the community colleges to assure the widest possible educational opportunities for the students of the State and the most efficient use of funds; facilitates the transfer of students between the community colleges and the University of Maryland, the State colleges, and other institutions of higher education; coordinates relationships between the community colleges and the State and local public school systems and the private high schools in order to facilitate cooperation with them in guidance and admission of students to the community colleges; and arranges for the most advantageous use of facilities. The Board establishes and maintains a system of information and accounting of community college activities; provides grants-in-aid for the prompt and adequate planning of new colleges and new programs in existing colleges. It administers the State's program of support for the community colleges, and assists and represents the community colleges in seeking and administering Federal funds available to them. The Board also assists the State Board for Higher Education in the performance of its duties as they pertain to community colleges and in its preparation of plans and recommendations for the establishment and location of new facilities and programs relating to community colleges.

In 1978, the General Assembly assigned to the Board responsibility for the establishment of guidelines for community college financial record keeping and the preparation of annual audit re-

ports (Chapter 642, Acts of 1978). Under these guidelines, the Board reviews community college audits and management letters to ascertain that community colleges are audited in accordance with the statute and that appropriate recommendations are implemented by each college.

Chapter 279, Acts of 1979, authorized the Board to designate certain community college instructional programs as Statewide or regional programs. Twenty-six programs have been so designated by the Board. The intent of the designations is to minimize unnecessary duplication in programs while providing wider educational opportunities to students.

Fifteen community colleges and two regional community colleges have been established. Branch campuses operate in three counties, administered by a community college in a different political subdivision under contract with the county government in the area served. Catonsville Community College administers a Carroll County branch campus. Charles County Community College administers branch campuses in both St. Mary's and Calvert counties. Including the branch campuses, community college services are available locally in each of the State's political subdivisions, except for Somerset County. During fiscal year 1982, a total of 96,558 students were enrolled in credit programs. An additional 135,000 Maryland residents registered for community college continuing education courses.

The two regional community colleges are on the Eastern Shore. Chesapeake College at Wye Mills was chartered in 1965. It serves Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties. Wor-Wic Tech Community College at Salisbury was established in 1975. It serves Worcester and Wicomico counties as a vocational-technical community college.

The State Board for Community Colleges submits a State Plan and Annual Report each year to the Governor and the members of the General Assembly. The document includes a summary of the major activities of the Board and community colleges together with financial and other statistical data pertaining to the community colleges, future projections, goals, and objectives. The Board also publishes special and continuing studies on program evaluation, student follow-up, enrollment, finance, and related policy issues. The General Policies of the Board constitute Title 13C of the *Code of Maryland Regulations*. A monthly newsletter, the *SBCC Bulletin*, is distributed to the colleges and State officials. Other reports are published as required (Code Education Article, secs. 16-101 through 16-105).