Introduction
Greetings! Welcome to Old Dominion University! I’m Renée Olander, Assistant Vice President and Assistant Professor, and I’m pleased to introduce you to the university’s three local outposts, our Regional Higher Education Centers, also known as ODU-Peninsula, ODU-Tri-Cities, and ODU-Virginia Beach.

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As you can see from this map graphic, ODU reigns over the watery, transportation-challenged Hampton Roads region, with its main campus headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia, and its three Regional Higher Education Centers convenient to major population centers. ODU Peninsula is in Hampton, only 20 miles away but through the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel. ODU-Tri-Cities is a mere ten miles away through the Midtown Tunnel in the heart of Western Branch, convenient to the residents of Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, and beyond. And our Virginia Beach Higher Education Center, the largest of the University’s outlying operations, serves the Commonwealth’s easternmost and most populous city.

Slide 3
Nearly 200 faculty members teach on-site at one of the three Centers annually – here you see Professor CJ Butler of our Darden College of Education teaching a 2-way video-conferencing course. Each Center has quality office space available for faculty teaching or conducting research at one of the Centers. The Centers can also support live/traditional, 2-way video-conferencing, and on-line instructional needs. All classroom and office technologies are consistent with those on main campus to provide faculty and their students with a seamless university experience. If you are a new faculty member who just bought a home in Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk, or any of our other outlying locales within Hampton Roads, consider whether your work/life balance could be improved by teaching from, or holding office hours at, one of our Regional Centers.

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Each of the three centers is strategically located to maximize value to the university and our local communities. The Peninsula center is adjacent to Thomas Nelson Community College, just off Hampton Roads Center Parkway. It also provides proximity to the Newport News Shipyard and Apprentice School, NASA-Langley, and the Jefferson Lab.

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Our Tri-Cities Center is at the crossroads of Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Chesapeake off 664, adjacent to the VMASC Modeling and Simulation Center. Increasingly, faculty and staff who live on that side of the tunnel use office space at Tri-Cities to work some days of the week and reduce their carbon footprints.
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ODU Virginia Beach, the largest of our regional centers, is in the heart of the Princess Anne Commons, within walking distance to Tidewater Community College, the Sentara Princess Anne health campus, LifeNet Health organ and tissue donor bank, and the new Operation Smile international headquarters. Each of these Centers serves as gateways to the university for the local communities.

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Each of our six academic colleges offers degree and certificate programming at the Regional Higher Education Centers, with the Darden College of Education and the College of Business and Public Administration taking the lead. While ODU-Virginia Beach supports the largest number of students, each of the Centers provides vital university courses and services for students regardless of where or how they take their classes. Whatever program you teach in, it’s probable that some of your students either access classes or university services at one of our Regional Higher Education Centers.

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Staff at the Centers support thousands of student contacts in academic advising, enrollment, and student success services annually and work closely with main campus colleagues to ensure consistency of university experience. In addition, students can access many essential University services at the Centers, ranging from Career Management Center counseling to library services, Peer Educator services, testing, and tutoring. Here you can see the Beach Learning Commons, a hub of student and faculty activity.

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While many people assume that students attending at our Centers are mostly non-traditional adults, in fact our average student age is just 22 for undergraduates and 28 for graduates, pretty consistent with main campus. Indeed, we find increasingly that our transfer and commuter students want the university to provide engagement and success programming at our Centers, and they very much value avoiding the drive to Norfolk for a little Monarch fun. These photos show one of our lively Exam Jams at the Beach.

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In addition, each of the Centers is very much engaged in the surrounding community, and we lease space to clients whose operations mesh with our mission. If you are looking for quality conference, retreat, or meeting space for a professional association or academic department or program, consider the quality facilities available at ODU-Peninsula, ODU-Tri-Cities, and ODU-Virginia Beach.
Please don’t hesitate to contact me, Renee Olander, or any of our Centers directly, if you’d like to tour any of our Regional Higher Education Centers, or if you’d like to know more about resources we can provide to you and your students!

Closing
Again, welcome to Old Dominion University and to Hampton Roads, where you’re never very far from a Regional Higher Education Center!