

# PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY

## VIRGINIA

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May 28, 2010

Marilyn Blake, Tedd Povar, Lane Ramsey, Judges  
VACo Achievement Awards Program  
Virginia Association of Counties  
1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300  
Richmond, VA 23219-3627

Re: 2010 Achievement Awards Programs

Dear Judges:

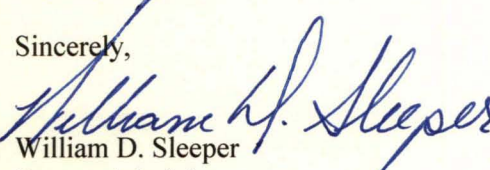
Attached hereto, you will find an application from Pittsylvania County, Virginia for the category Regional Collaboration presenting the Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority. The County of Pittsylvania has been working with the City of Danville in partnership since the year 2001 to help offset the severe impacts of the losses of industries and jobs in our communities. This collaborative effort between Pittsylvania County and the City of Danville has created a model envied by many regions in Virginia and North Carolina.

This application shows the problem created over ten (10) years in the loss of over seven thousand (7,000) jobs. The benefits of the operation of this program creating at least four thousand (4,000) replacement jobs and the collaborative effort of Pittsylvania County and the City of Danville developing anchor industries, research facilities, educational facilities and advanced technology facilities to be utilized by their surrounding neighbors in both Virginia and North Carolina, as well as the development of Virginia's largest Mega Park. Over its seven (7) year history, the Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority has accomplished numerous tasks which are identified in this application form showing millions of dollars of expenditures and hundreds of millions of dollars of investments that have returned so far in the infancy of this program.

The Board of Supervisors of Pittsylvania County is extremely proud of the performance of their partnership in the Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority and highly recommend the Virginia Association of Counties to highlight this world class award winning program to its membership.

If you have any questions or require any additional information on any of the materials submitted, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

  
William D. Sleeper  
County Administrator

WDS/kp  
Attachment

Cc: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors

**VACO 2010 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS - DANVILLE-PITTSYLVANIA  
REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL FACILITY AUTHORITY**



**Submitted by Pittsylvania County**



Recognizing the Best in County Government Programs!

# 2010 Achievement Awards

Virginia Association of Counties



ATTN: 2010 Achievement Awards Program  
Virginia Association of Counties  
1207 East Main Street, Suite 300  
Richmond, Va. 23219-3627

address service requested

## Call for Entries

## 2010 VACo Achievement Awards

Deadline: June 1, 2010



Virginia Association of Counties

### Application Form

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. Deadline: June 1, 2010.

#### Program Information

Locality Pittsylvania County  
Program Title Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority  
Program Category Regional Collaboration  
Population Category 50,001 - 100,000

#### Contact Information

Name William D. Sleeper  
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E-mail Dan.Sleeper@pittgov.org

Signature of county administrator or chief administrative officer

Name William D. Sleeper  
Title County Administrator  
Signature\* *William D. Sleeper*

\*Entries without this signature will not be accepted.

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

The County of Pittsylvania and the City of Danville created the Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA) under the new code requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA) has performed miracles in changing the economy of this Southside Community. This application for regional collaborative effort is support by success of this partnership.

Danville-Pittsylvania RIFA is responsible for numerous joint projects between the County of Pittsylvania and the City of Danville which has helped to offset the loss of seven thousand, two hundred sixty-four (7,264) jobs since the year 2000 with the replacement of over fifty-seven percent (57%) of those jobs lost or four thousand, one hundred eight (4,108) new jobs within its service area.

The uniqueness of this partnership is that it is a City and a County in Virginia making the partnership highly unusual into itself, due to Virginia's government structures. The Regional Industrial Facility Authority has built three (3) major industrial parks in the seven (7) year period of its existence: a High-Tech Advanced Technology Cyber Park, an Advanced Manufacturing Park and now it is in the process of developing one of Virginia's largest Mega Parks. The collaborative effort of this Regional Industrial Facility Authority will touch all of the surrounding jurisdictions, both in Virginia and North Carolina. It is our hope that this collaboration will provide as many as 15,000 new jobs which will compensate for more than double the job losses for the past ten (10) years. The next park proposed for the Regional Industrial Facility Authority will be in cooperation with Halifax County and the Virginia International Raceway to assist in the advancement of new high-tech automobile development. This world class program between the County of Pittsylvania and the City of Danville is a shining star in the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission's mission to revitalize Southside Virginia.

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Since the Commonwealth of Virginia is the only State in the United States in which a City cannot exist within a County and where all cities enjoy independent status, it is difficult, at best, to have a City and a County cooperate in any joint project much less become partners in an innovative successful economic development program to generate rebirth of a declining economic region.

The County of Pittsylvania and the City of Danville created the Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority in the year 2002, in order to expedite a partnership to help stop the hemorrhaging of its economy from the exiting of virtually all of its major industries, including textiles, furniture manufacturing and tobacco. Since 2000, Pittsylvania County and the City of Danville have announced industry closings with the loss of seven thousand, two hundred sixty-four (7,264) jobs. With the development of the partnership between the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County, through the Regional Industrial Facility Authority, efforts from both jurisdictions have resulted in four thousand, one hundred eight (4,108) new jobs to replace the losses from the announcements of closing of industries in the County and City.

The uniqueness of this partnership is that the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County working together have both eliminated their private non-profit economic development entities, and created departments of economic development. The County and the City Departments of Economic Development are now supporting the Regional Industrial Facility Authority's development. The Authority is made up of two elected officials from each jurisdiction. In addition to economic development requirements in each jurisdiction, Danville and Pittsylvania County together covers a landmass over one thousand, twenty-five (1,025) square miles, as large as the State of Rhode Island. This creates significant problems in transportation for new jobs and industries. The partnership is not restricted to any particular boundaries and has a regional concept of development which has incorporated negotiations with Halifax County, Henry County, Martinsville, Eden, North Carolina, Rockingham County, North Carolina and Caswell County, North Carolina. With this regional cooperation, the Danville-

Pittsylvania County Regional Industrial Facility Authority has created several major projects which are providing the infrastructure necessary for changing the economy of this Southside Community.

Danville and Pittsylvania County's partnership has led to the development of the Dan River Business Incubator reflecting about \$5.5 million in investments. The Regional Industrial Facility Authority is the owner and the developer of the Cyber Park which is located in the city limits of the City of Danville and the Cane Creek Centre Industrial Park which is located in Pittsylvania County. These two parks are within a mile of each other. Cyber Park supports high-tech research, education and technology and Cane Creek provides the necessary land for manufacturing facilities and product development. The County, the City, the Regional Industrial Facility Authority and private investors have over \$59 million invested in the Cane Creek Centre Industrial Park and the Cyber Park. These parks house some very unique facilities including the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research; the Charles Hawkins Research Facility Building; the Danville Community College Regional Center for Advanced Technology and Training; Advanced Vehicle Research Facility and the Donnachaidh Eagles View High-Tech Office Park Facility. In addition, manufacturing facilities of Swedwood North America, (a division of IKEA), and Yorktowne Cabinetry are located in the Cane Creek Centre Industrial Park. The Danville-Pittsylvania County Regional Industrial Facility Authority is moving forward with the development of a Regional Mega Park consisting of in excess of three thousand, five hundred (3,500) acres. The Regional Industrial Facility Authority has purchased all of the land necessary for this park. It is currently in the process of developing a master plan and providing utilities to this park which will serve the southern Virginia region, as well as northern counties and cities of North Carolina. This mega park is right on the border of the two states. This demonstrates the collaboration between Virginia and North Carolina working to bring jobs to both states regardless of the location of the facilities. Further details of the developments of the facilities identified above are shown in the remainder of this application with pictures and details of the success of this partnership.

## **DAN RIVER BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

The Dan River Business Development Center is a partnership project between the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County developed in 2001. The twenty-five thousand (25,000) square foot facility was designed as an incubator to have a place for new industries and businesses to start in the revitalization of the Danville-Pittsylvania County economy. The project was financed by the County, the City and a grant from the Economic Development Administration of a total cost of \$3.2 million. Since its creation, the Dan River Business Development Center has generated the development of forty-four (44) businesses with a total of one thousand, seven hundred sixty-two (1,762) jobs resulting in a new investment in the Danville-Pittsylvania County region of \$53.4 million. This facility provides a space for businesses to set up, receive staff support, mailing, computer work, conference room meetings and laboratory and research facilities. This incubator was nominated and won a National Award from the National Business Incubator Association of America.





## CYBER PARK

The Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority developed a Cyber Park for the placement of research and development and high technology training to support the needs of a changing community. This one hundred eighty (180) acre park is equipped with high speed, broadband Ethernet computer network access provides redundant dual electric power service to ensure backup. The one hundred eighty (180) acre high-tech park currently houses the Institute for Advanced Learning which is operated through a collaborative effort of Virginia Tech, Danville Community College, Longwood College and Old Dominion University. It provides graduate studies and research and development for new products to help develop new industries in the regional. Examples like the Virginia Institute for Performance Engineering and Research (VIPER), a collaborative effort of the Institute, Old Dominion University and VIR and joint operation of Unmanned Systems and Robotic (Jouster), a collaborative effort of the Institute, Department of Defense and VIR.

An additional facility located in the park is the Regional Center for Advanced Technology and Training, a division of Danville Community College, which provides specialized training for high-tech, advanced manufacturing, not only in wood products and plastics, but also in machine tooling and hydraulic equipment operations and computer technology.

Adjacent to the Institute, through additional grants from EDA and the Tobacco Commission, is the Charles Hawkins Research Center. Due to the significant interests in research facilities at the Institute, it required the Regional Industrial Facility Authority to build a new 45,000 square foot addition to the Institute providing laboratories and research facilities for advanced manufacturing. **See Institute Campus Layout.**



ALL TRACKS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. THE TRACKS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. THE TRACKS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

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**LEGEND**

- PROPOSED WATER LINE
- PROPOSED GAS LINE
- PROPOSED SEWER LINE
- PROPOSED ELECTRIC LINE
- PROPOSED CABLE TV LINE
- PROPOSED FIBER OPTIC LINE
- PROPOSED TELEPHONE LINE

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