

Recognizing the Best in County Government Programs!



2012 Achievement Awards

ATTN: 2012 Achievement Awards Program
Virginia Association of Counties
1207 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, Va. 23219-3627

Call for Entries



2012 VACo Achievement Awards

Deadline: June 1, 2012

Application Form

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. Deadline: June 1, 2012.

Program Information

Locality Greensville County
Program Title Southside Virginia Education Center
Program Category Economic Development

Contact Information

Name Natalie B. Slate
Title Director of Economic Development
Department Administration
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Signature of county administrator or chief administrative officer

Name K. David Whittington
Title County Administrator
Signature* K David Whittington

*Entries without this signature will not be accepted.

Southside Virginia Education Center

“To develop an educational program and to construct a facility to enhance adult education in this community in partnership with the unemployed, the underemployed, local industries, and the providers of education.”

The Southside Virginia Education Center is located in Greensville County, Virginia. The facility, currently a 28,000 square foot facility, enhances the economic future of Southside Virginia by improving the region's delivery of adult education and workforce training programs thereby correcting substantial workforce obstacles in our community. This modern, high technological facility gives all adult educational providers an opportunity to assist more citizens and further develop their programs.

In 2000 the US Census Bureau reported only 62% of Greensville County residents age 25 and older have obtained a high school diploma, compared to 82% statewide. GED classes were spread throughout the community in borrowed spaces. There was an evident lack of appropriate and sufficient classroom space to provide technical education in the community. The facility local Southside Virginia Community College classes had a maximum capacity at any one time of 152 students. As a result of the insufficient classroom space the course offerings of particular interest to existing industries were lacking.

A management team was formed to review the unfavorable demographics and current workforce training programs. The management team consisted of representatives from the local industries, existing educators, workforce program providers, local government, unemployed, underemployed, and the VEC. The management group decided to construct a place - The Southside Virginia Education Center - in which to house all workforce development programs.

The Southside Virginia Education Center opened its doors in August 2008. Since that time enrollment in workforce training education has more than tripled. The public focus on educational attainment and the construction of the Southside Virginia Education Center has already had a positive effect on the population. The 2010 Census shows a 7% rise in the number of residents 25 years or older who have obtained a high school degree or equivalent.

SVEC was constructed with funding from the Virginia Tobacco Commission, The Department of Housing and Community Development, United States Department of Agriculture, and other local and federal grant funds. Annual operational costs are supported by Greensville County and the City of Emporia.