PRESS RELEASE

VACo 2015 Achievement Award Program Descriptions

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BEST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

CARROLL COUNTY | STEM Lab for Agriculture | Read Full Submission

In 2008, the Board of Supervisors set a Board Goal to assist the Carroll County Public School System that would result in better preparation for High School and post-secondary education success. In 2010, the BOS refined the Goal to include a STEM Lab for Agriculture. The Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Lab was fully functional in 2014. It is planned that the STEM Lab students learn scientific protocols that will assist local producers to meet higher Food Safety levels with providing lab services that will enhance their necessary documentation. While at the same time the students are solving real-life problems, they will utilize Science, Technology, Engineering and Math that will provide a new scientific base for further education in many disciplines. It is expected that other uses of the Lab will be developed as new needs for analysis is developed.

BEST ACHIEVEMENT FINALISTS

CAROLINE COUNTY | Caroline County Recovery Community Program | Read Full Submission

Like many localities throughout the nation, Caroline County has been forced to commit increasingly scarce fiscal resources to incarcerating adult prisoners, many of whom are repeat offenders. These large expenditures are a drain on the County budget and take funds away from higher priorities such as education, public safety and quality of life initiatives. Approximately six years ago, the Caroline County Board of Supervisors prevailed upon the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney to explore methods of controlling these costs without a corresponding negative impact on public safety. Commonwealth's Attorney Anthony G. "Tony" Spencer responded to the challenge by partnering with the McShin Foundation to create the Caroline County Recovery Community Program (CCRCP). The program provides an alternative to incarceration for qualifying drug offenders, who make up a majority of the jail population.

HENRICO COUNTY | Internry Program: Developing the Workforce of Tomorrow |
[Read Full Submission](#)

Henrico County implemented a formal Internship Program in 2012 aimed at positioning the County as an employer-of-choice for young adults and at the same time, having a year round source of motivated, short-term employees. The three phases of the program focused on the creation of a small pilot, development of program materials, and implementation of a County-wide initiative. The results have been outstanding! The program grew from a pilot with only two students in one agency to hosting 89 interns in 15 County agencies in less than three years. Both applications from students and requests for interns from County departments have increased over the five semesters the program has been in operation. After working as interns, students have applied for 68 positions with the County, showing that the goal of positioning Henrico County as a preferred employer for this population is being met. Henrico County's Internship Program is growing the workforce of tomorrow by developing the skills of young people and their passion for serving their communities as a local government employee.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

BOTETOURT COUNTY | What's Your Bot-E-Type | [Read Full Submission](#)

In recent years, tourism initiatives have become a major focus of localities in order to attract visitors and future residents and businesses. Botetourt County officials have recognized that the County's marketing efforts needed to be advanced into the 21st century in order to capture all generations and types of visitors. Recognizing that the County was lagging behind, County tourism staff decided to develop a comprehensive marketing plan for the County in an attempt to fully leverage and promote the County's natural, cultural, and historical resources. As a result, Botetourt County tourism staff, working with regional marketing firms and local tourism-related business owners and non-profit directors, have developed and launched "What's Your Bot-e-Type?" This program has involved a coordinated approach towards improvement and expansion of the tourism website along with additional production of a tourism brochure and development of a new advertising campaign to promote the unique assets of Botetourt County. The results of the program have been staggering with improvements in almost every measured area. The partnerships created have also multiplied the efforts and reach of the tourism staff members working on their own, improving outcomes in jobs creation and sustainability, visitor spending, average occupancy, leads, website traffic, social media traffic, and impact on tourism-related businesses.

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY | Created Equal: Engaging the Community through Conversation | [Read Full Submission](#)

In its 2015 strategic plan, Chesterfield County Public Library (CCPL) made a commitment to community engagement and to "helping people transform information into knowledge." By embracing the role of "town square," CCPL is emerging as a leader in facilitating dialogue and discussion within the community about topics and issues that are important to our citizens. In 2014, Chesterfield County participated in a grant-funded program called *Created Equal,* which was designed to encourage communities to join in dialogue about the meanings of freedom and equality. The library worked with the school

system, local media and university professors from two separate state institutions to offer three programs, highlighting the three documentary films—*The Abolitionists, Freedom Riders* and *The Loving Story.* Participants watched film clips highlighting historical events and followed up with a group table discussion. Attendees indicated the sessions were valuable learning experiences and expressed a desire to learn even more about the topic. Our program locations – university, school and library – reflected a commitment to learning from each other and to furthering our collective knowledge by engaging with each other. This series helped CCPL form a model of a "community conversation," which we are using during other special events to engage people on important community topics.

DINWIDDIE COUNTY | Teen Expo | [Read Full Submission](#)

The Dinwiddie County Youth Workforce Initiative was born of a need to better equip youth with skills needed to be competitive in the local and regional workforce. Dinwiddie County government, working together with public schools and a variety of public and private agencies, developed a comprehensive program designed to provide participants with real-life, hands-on experience in an assortment of career fields and disciplines. The Dinwiddie County Youth Workforce Initiative is a multi-faceted umbrella covering the following programs and activities: Teen Staffing Program, Camp Dinwiddie: Leaders in Training Program, Career Launch, Career Exposure, Teen Expo, and a Summer Internship Program. Each of these activities place youth in direct contact with employers in variety of career fields. Through real life, hands on exposure, our goal is to stimulate interest, build connections, establish a work ethic and enhance a skill set that will not only make Dinwiddie youth more competitive and employable but will remain with youth throughout their lives.

FAIRFAX COUNTY | Eat and Run | [Read Full Submission](#)

Working together, the Fairfax County Office for Children and Live Healthy Fairfax used funding received through the Community Transformation Grant under the Centers for Disease Control to develop an activity book entitled "EAT and RUN." The book contains 15 EAT and 15 RUN activities designed to help child care providers incorporate good nutrition and fitness into their daily programs. The "EAT and RUN" book has also been an effective tool for recruiting providers to join the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program, which assists family child care providers to give healthy, nutritious meals to children. This model ready-made book of activities can be used in child care programs to combat obesity in children and can also be used to recruit family child care providers into the USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program.

FAIRFAX COUNTY | Employee Lifecycle Retention Program | [Read Full Submission](#)

The Fairfax County Department of Family Services (DFS) has created an evidence-based, 3-pronged approach to comprehensive onboarding and retention of employees. This Employee Lifecycle Retention Program includes Learning Maps designed to accelerate new employees' access to essential information critical to success during their first 6 months of employee; Career Management Plans with standards, tools and processes to engage employees throughout the lifecycle of their employment and a Pulse Check System

to regular monitor the state of the workforce. This program offers unique and innovate solutions to retention of employees in a large and complex department.

FAIRFAX COUNTY | Father Engagement Program | [Read Full Submission](#)

The Fairfax County Department of Family Services created the Father Engagement Program with the belief that fathers are irreplaceable and play important roles in the lives of their children. The program is further grounded in the beliefs that there is a direct link between positive father involvement and child well-being and development, that fathers also contribute to their children's safety and permanency and father inclusion leads to better outcomes for children. The programs supports these beliefs through training of child welfare staff, implementation of effective engagement strategies, development of policies and practice guidelines that are father inclusive, and collaboration with systems of care agencies and community-based organizations to meet the unique needs of fathers and their families.

FAIRFAX COUNTY | Self-Directed Services: Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) | [Read Full Submission](#)

In 2003, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, in response to reports addressing current and future day support and employment services needs of students with intellectual disability graduating from the Fairfax County Public School System, commissioned a study to recommend efficiency strategies for Fairfax County [then] Mental Retardation Services. The consultant's report, released in January 2005, recommended "creating infrastructure for development of a new consumer centered service option in which consumers/ families select precise services with full knowledge of an individualized, capped budget." A collaboration of staff from the Community Services Board, the Offices of the Fairfax County Executive and Attorney, the Fairfax County Departments of Administration for Human Services, Purchasing and Supply Management, and Management and Budget, and with feedback from the community through focus groups and other communication means, the Self-Directed Services Program (SDS) was created, making it possible to offer families an opportunity to identify and purchase services which benefit and are most meaningful to their family member with an intellectual/ developmental disability and to provide cost avoidance opportunities for Fairfax County. Guidelines adopted by the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services for the Consumer Directed Services portion of the Virginia Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver were used as a template for the SDS program.

FAIRFAX COUNTY | Stream Crime Investigation | [Read Full Submission](#)

Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division has developed an innovative high school science activity that couples the informative nature of presentations with the hands-on experience of lab exercises. The lab, entitled Stream Crime Investigation (SCI), replicates the analytical process of identifying and tracking pollutants in a storm drainage network. Students use kitchen chemistry reactions which emulate the tests conducted by real stormwater scientists to identify the cause of mysterious illnesses in a fictional town. The lab was created in response to a requirement put forth by the EPA and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality through its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer

System (MS4) Permit to develop a meaningful outreach program addressing the fundamentals of stormwater and watershed science. While satisfying this requirement with basic presentations is possible, county scientists went a step further and created a hands-on program that could be executed with minimal cost. The program provides a new opportunity for teachers to connect subjects like chemistry, biology, environmental science with real world application. To date, response to this lab has been overwhelmingly positive from teacher and students, alike. Within its first year, the SCI lab has been incorporated into four Fairfax County Public Schools reaching over 296 students. The low operating cost of the lab has promoted partnering and intergovernmental cooperation between Fairfax County Public Schools and the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division anticipates participation will continue to increase during the 2015-2016 school year.

FAUQUIER COUNTY | Regional Multi-Jurisdictional Emergency Medical Protocol Project | Read Full Submission

In June of 2013, The Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) released new regulations on provider expectations for the delivery of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). This directive coupled with emergency incident statistical research confirmed that Fauquier County's service and growth demand had exceeded that which our EMS System was prepared or equipped to manage. Fauquier County faces a number of significant challenges in EMS service delivery. Fauquier County is geographically very large, at 660 square miles. The EMS providers range from first responder level to critical care level providers; comprised of career and volunteer providers with a wide range of skills, abilities, and time to commit to continuing education. Upon conferring the need with the Operational Medical Director (OMD), one concern was that Fauquier County EMS Agencies are not the only agencies that the OMD oversaw; he was also responsible for multiple agencies in Culpeper and Rappahannock Counties. Understandably, he wanted to maintain consistency between all of the agencies that would transport to Fauquier Hospital and that would be operating under his direction. What this meant for the direction of this project, was that it was rapidly transforming from a simple revision of Medical Treatment Protocols, to a multi-jurisdictional system overhaul. To meet this challenge, Fauquier County made contacts and established a protocol subcommittee comprised of representatives from each provider level of all 19 involved agencies from the surrounding counties, with Fauquier being the lead agency. This group embarked on several months of research into the medical treatment practices of local and state jurisdictions.

FAUQUIER COUNTY | Regional Paramedic Simulation Lab | Read Full Submission

In the spring of 2012, Fauquier County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management (DFREM) received a $254,000.00 grant to purchase equipment for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Medical Simulation Lab through the Virginia Office of EMS Rescue Squad Assistance Fund Grant Program. The grant required $127,000.00 in local matching funds. The creation of a Medical Simulation Lab is the first step in the path towards becoming an Accredited ALS Educational program which would facilitate conducting ALS education locally and have control over course design and schedule, something critically needed to serve the Fauquier, Culpeper, and Rappahannock Fire Rescue systems. However, with an estimated one million dollar price tag to acquire a

facility and construct the lab, the realization of such a state-of-the-art facility in mostly rural area counties seemed bleak. However, Fauquier County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management (DFREM) staff under the direction of Fire Rescue Chief Thomas Billington, the project began to take shape. The project workload was led by Assistant Chief Darren Stevens, who took control and became determined to make it a success.

FLUVANNA COUNTY | Pleasant Grove Meadow Management | [Read Full Submission](#)

Fluvanna County's Department of Parks and Recreation collaborated with the county's Public Works Department to layout and establish approximately 70 acres of park space as a renaturalization area at Pleasant Grove Park. This space was previously utilized as mowed open space/fields that had never been used for any activity or needed for any other events taking place at the park. These areas were also not part of the parks Master Plan in establishing any other amenities, e.g. facilities, ball fields, etc. Essentially, we stopped all mowing in these areas, which allowed them to grow naturally in order for the natural re-establishment of meadows, trees, tree food plots, and wildflowers to generate.

GILES COUNTY | The Health of Giles County – A Systematic Approach | [Read Full Submission](#)

When we consider the health of Giles County, we are not just considering physical health. We are also considering economic and educational "health." In our view, and that of the research, all these facets of health are inextricably and systemically interrelated and each provides protective assets supporting and enhancing the others. Hence, we are committed to a systemic approach to the health of Giles County. Giles County, in many ways, is not unlike other rural Virginia counties when it comes to certain demographic indicators/risk factors. Far too many citizens contend with poverty, high unemployment, diminished economic opportunity, transiency, family disruption and dysfunction. From an educational perspective, insufficient utilization of Pre-K education, poor academic performance, low education levels and limited educational opportunity are issues. Other risk factors include generational drug and/or alcohol abuse, generational incarceration, high rates of smoking - obesity - premature death - teen birth - low birth weight- physical inactivity and self-esteem and self-confidence issues. Programming focused on the health of Giles County is as a result of a firm belief in the efficacy of a systemic approach to improving our physical, social and economic conditions to the greatest extent possible. To achieve this improvement, we must change our social norms; protective factors must be enhanced through prevention and intervention programming. Protective factors to be strengthened include: enhanced parental resilience, social connectedness, enhanced education levels and opportunity, increased workforce employability, economic stability, support in times of need, improved knowledge of parenting and child development and social and emotional competence of children.

HANOVER COUNTY | Backflow Prevention Program Database | [Read Full Submission](#)

Hanover County's Department of Public Utilities (Hanover DPU) provides water and wastewater service to approximately 18,000 residential and 1,600 commercial customers. Like all municipal water systems, Hanover DPU has a backflow prevention program to insure the quality of the water supplied to its customers. The goal of this

program is to prevent the public water system from being contaminated by water that has passed through a private water system. Until 2014, Hanover utilized a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet to track the status of individual backflow prevention devices and generate notices to customers. The spreadsheet worked well when Hanover's water system was smaller but, with over 1,000 devices to track, using a spreadsheet to manage the program became increasingly unwieldy and time consuming. To address the shortcomings of its old spreadsheet system, Hanover DPU personnel developed a database, using Microsoft Access, to help it manage the program. The database was developed and tested in December 2013 and put into service in January 2014. During 2014, the use of the database significantly reduced the staff time required to administer the backflow prevention program and helped us improve customer service. All program administration is now managed using the database. Hanover DPU would be happy to share its database and experience with other utilities. Access is part of the Microsoft Office Suite. The database can be used as is or can easily be customized to help any small or mid-sized utility manage their backflow prevention program.

HENRICO COUNTY | Education in Racing: How STEM Plays a Role in NASCAR | Read Full Submission

The field of technology education involves the understanding of the human-made world. Education in Racing began in September 2012 and is a joint effort among Henrico County Public Schools, Richmond International Raceway and the Center for Sports Leadership at VCU to integrate the principals of STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math— into unique sporting activities such as NASCAR. This program includes age appropriate, technology-based activities that enhance, not add to, any local, state or national standards. To date, over 1,000 eighth-grade middle-school students and their teachers have had the opportunity to participate in this program. Teachers have been trained to provide instruction using STEM and the role it plays in NASCAR. Students have been able to explore the world of NASCAR and how STEM education is applied through hands-on, real-world problem-solving activities.

HENRICO COUNTY | Field Training Medic Program | Read Full Submission

The Field Training Medic (FTM) Program is a joint effort between the Henrico County Division of Fire (DOF) and Department of Human Resources (HR). The goal of the program is to create a pool of highly skilled Field Training Medics who are assigned to train and mentor future Advanced Life Support (ALS) providers. The FTM program trains selected candidates in leadership development topics such as conflict resolution, feedback, coaching, and mentoring in addition to advanced emergency medical services (EMS) skills and assessment. After orientation and training, FTMs are tasked with the supervision and training of employees participating in an ALS internship in order to practice medicine as ALS providers within the DOF. To date, the program has successfully trained 34 FTMs who have in turn assisted 12 new ALS providers in successful completion of their ALS internship. The class evaluations of the FTM leadership training received a 97 percent overall approval rating from participants. Three FTMs also have received promotion to the rank of lieutenant since participating in the FTM process. The Fire Chief noted how the leadership training provided in the FTM program assisted in their successful preparation as formal supervisors.

HENRICO COUNTY | Jumpstart Your Summer Teen Volunteer Fair | [Read Full Submission](#)

Beginning in the spring of 2013, the Tuckahoe Area Library's Teen Librarian, Mandy Arnold, invited and hosted representatives from non-profit organizations for a 'Jumpstart Your Summer' teen volunteer fair to meet with teens to discuss opportunities for volunteering. The teen volunteer fair brought together non-profit organizations and local high school teens as a way to serve the community and help teens earn community service volunteer hours prior to graduation from high school. The fair was so successful, that it has become an annual event for Henrico County Public Library (HCPL). The program is a great way for the library to partner with local businesses, nonprofits and other county agencies, while helping local teens earn community service hours.

HENRY COUNTY | Monitoring the Public Safety Radio Systems in 2015 | [Read Full Submission](#)

Henry County maintains a complex network of radios to enable communications among Public Safety, Rescue Squads, Fire Departments, Sheriff, and E911 center. Any outage in this system could result in loss of property or life, and the existing monitoring system had become antiquated and unreliable. An updated system, with real-time alerts, was needed. Rather than accepting one of the various solutions that was proposed by outside vendors, the County's Information Services Department proposed collaborating with all stakeholders to create an innovative, in-house solution. The goal was to provide better results, at a lower cost, while creating a system that could accommodate future expansion and still be maintained by existing personnel. The new monitoring system features a graphical, web-based system that displays a map of Henry County along with each of the radio tower sites. Sites are monitored in real-time and a color coded system is used to quickly identify any site that is experiencing a problem. All events are archived while the 20-most recent events are displayed on the homepage of a custom website. Any event deemed critical by the radio shop is automatically emailed to designated recipients. Users can then login to the website for additional detail and to clear alarms. The project has been in use for six months and has become invaluable. Problems are routinely corrected before they become an issue to our users and having a notification system that sends email allows other departments, such as 911, to assist the single-person radio shop with monitoring. Additional items, such as a generator to power the Jail & EOC, have just been added, proving that resident expertise will provide continued savings for the future.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY | Central Permitting and Development Service Improvements | [Read Full Submission](#)

In the fall of 2013, the County embarked on a project to improve customer service relevant to site plan review/approval and permitting. The County's newly appointed County Administrator, Anne Seward, learned through meetings with various community stakeholders that Isle of Wight had developed a reputation as not being business friendly and having a cumbersome development review and permitting process. A pro-business and customer friendly environment would be critical to promoting commercial and residential growth now and in the future as the County sought to recover from the financial challenges associated with the economic recession and the loss of 1,100 jobs in October 2009 due to the closure of International Paper. A work group of community

development departments came together to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to improve the County's site plan review/approval and permitting process. The strategy resulted in the creation of a central permitting office, a streamlined review process with committed review timeframes, standard operating procedures, improved use of technology, and enhanced communication among staff members and customers. The Central Permitting Office opened in October 2014 and stakeholder feedback has been positive. The community development work group continues to implement, evaluate, and refine its strategy to improve development review and permitting in Isle of Wight County.

LOUDOUN COUNTY | After Hours Teen Center – Celebrating 10 Years of Success | [Read Full Submission](#)

The AfterHours Teen Center (AHTC) at Casades Library, a branch of Loudoun County Public Library (LCPL), was developed for teens in 2005 in direct response to a Loudoun County Board of Supervisors initiative that focused on meeting the gap of community services for youth ages 12-18. Available every Friday evening, the AHTC became – and continues to be – the county's only non-sport centric program offered weekly to teenagers. There are no comparable weekly programs of this frequency or longevity elsewhere in the Commonwealth of Virginia or the nation. The AHTC plans educational and engaging activities to keep youth occupied and safe, therefore helping to prevent youth from engaging in problematic activities or behaviors. The success of the AHTC is demonstrated through the attendance, which averages 90 teens every Friday night with approximately 45,000 youth served since 2005.

LOUDOUN COUNTY | Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence | [Read Full Submission](#)

The Coordinated Community Response (CCR) model of domestic violence illustrates the inter-relationship of agencies and levels of response for addressing domestic violence. It recognizes that no one agency can deal effectively and safely with the effects of domestic violence, but rather a collaborative approach is best. Loudoun County has developed a coordinated community response (CCR) to domestic violence through the collaborative efforts of its project partners. The project partners include the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, Leesburg Police Department, Commonwealth's Attorneys' Office, Victim-Witness Program, the Loudoun County Department of Community Corrections, Loudoun County Juvenile Court Services Unit, Loudoun County Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Developmental Services, Loudoun County Department of Family Services, Loudoun County Public Schools, Virginia Department of Corrections - 25th District Probation and Parole, Northern Virginia legal Services, and several Batterer's Intervention Program providers.

LOUDOUN COUNTY | Electronic Commerce | [Read Full Submission](#)

With the rapid growth in residential and commercial development in Loudoun County, the volume of deed and land records transactions filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court rapidly increased in correlation with the real estate development. The requirement to physically visit the local courthouse to record paper deed documents created unnecessary traffic on already congested roads, generated crowding in public areas of the courts

complex and resulted in significant inefficiencies in the delivery of client services in the clerk's office. The processes resulting from a predominantly paper-based operation presented numerous challenges to maintain efficiency in the receipt and processing of deeds and land records. The clerk of the circuit court decided to explore an online technology solution to achieve the statutory requirements for presenting legal documents for filing and recording while reducing the volume of personal visits to the local courthouse. The Clerk of the Circuit Court implemented an Electronic Recording system that permitted clients to submit deed documents and land records documents in electronic format. Despite increasing volume of transactions that would normally require the allocation of more personnel and operational resources at taxpayer expense, the clerk's office plans to leverage the utilization and expansion of the E-Recording system against the increasing workload demands related to deed recording. The electronic recording system not only avoids any personal appearance at the courthouse but it also permits the submitter to rapidly make necessary legal modifications and resubmit the modified legal document. As of March 15, 2015, forty-two percent (42%) of all deeds and land records were being submitted electronically. The E-Recording program has provided a mutually beneficial outcome for all parties involved but most importantly, E-Recording has provided outstanding results for all citizens in Loudoun County. By allowing business professionals to complete deed recording business from their office, the clerk of the circuit court is helping to keep some cars off of the highways in Northern Virginia. This is good news for those residents in Northern Virginia who do need to drive back and forth to their jobs in the region.

LOUDOUN COUNTY | The Use of Volunteer GIS to Map Park and Trail Amenities | Read Full Submission

Loudoun County maintains 29 parks and there are other parks that are owned and maintained by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, the National Park Service, not for profit organizations, the County's towns, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The public may not be aware of the amenities available in any given park, and mapping all of these assets is a massive undertaking beyond the resources of the County alone. In early 2013, an employee of AOL approached the County offering to provide volunteers for community service as part of that company's Monster Help Day, a world-wide event encouraging volunteerism. The County suggested mapping the amenities along the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad Regional Park (W&OD), a linear, multi-use rail-to-trail park that originates in the County and extends 45 miles to Alexandria, Virginia. The AOL volunteers fanned out along the trail on one day in late May and used their smartphones to map amenities, including recording GPS points, taking photos, and classifying amenities by type via a pick list. Their progress was immediately displayed on their phones from an ArcGIS Online application. In 2014 the AOL volunteers repeated the exercise, mapping the amenities in Claude Moore Park, and on May 15, 2015 they mapped Phil Bolen Park and eight parks in the Town of Leesburg. This year (2015) the Loudoun County Trails Association (LOCOTA) has volunteered to extend the program Countywide. LOCOTA members include people interested in hiking, cycling, mountain biking and horseback riding. The data dictionary was developed in March of 2015 and field work began on May 8.

LOUISA COUNTY | Learn and Win (LAW) Program | [Read Full Submission](#)

The Learn and Win (LAW) program is a crucial component of the many innovative community policing initiatives implemented by the Louisa County Sheriff's Office. Faced with a myriad of less than positive influences in our children's lives (e.g. peer pressure, internet, television, movies, video games, and music), the Sheriff's Office undertook the challenge to find a flexible, collaborative, and cost effective means to encourage Louisa County tweens/teens to make good choices on key issues affecting their future. Partnered with Louisa County Public Schools, agencies, and businesses, the Sheriff's Office began a phased implementation of the LAW program in all public schools. The cornerstone of the LAW initiative is the elementary school program. Students receive ten 45-60 minute lessons in key areas such as making smart choices, tobacco, alcohol, marijuana, other drugs, internet safety, gang awareness, and vehicle safety. The middle school program provides two lessons at each of three grade levels and includes such topics as student responsibilities, juvenile justice, internet safety/sexting, and vehicle safety. The high school program provides lessons in other drugs, motor vehicle responsibilities, and search and seizure. In addition, the LAW program includes special events for students such as Operation SAFE PASSAGE and training for school faculty and staff. Implemented in cooperation with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the focus of Operation SAFE PASSAGE is to reduce teens under the influence and distracted driving mishaps. Using a realistic motor vehicle collision reenactment with student actors, teens quickly learn the "it can't happen to me" adage is just not true. To keep our Louisa County schools safe and orderly, School Resource Officers and other Sheriff's Office personnel provide critical incident response and gang awareness training to school faculty and staff. Since its inception in Academic Year 2009-2010, the LAW program has touched the lives of thousands of students, faculty/staff, and citizens. With continuing support from partnering schools, agencies, and businesses, the LAW program is vibrant and constantly evolving to meet new challenges.

POWHATAN COUNTY | Fighting Creek Park Trail Extension | [Read Full Submission](#)

Through community partnership and collaboration, Powhatan County was able to complete a $242,000 trail enhancement and expansion project creating a 2.5-mile walking/hiking/jogging loop through Fighting Creek Park and the historic Powhatan Court House Village for $123,000. The partners in the project included Virginia Department Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Transportation, Powhatan County Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Works and GIS, Powhatan Rotary Club, James River Master Naturalist, Goochland – Powhatan Master Gardeners, Powhatan Boy Scouts, Scottville at Powhatan Courthouse, Colonial Pipeline and the citizens of Powhatan.

PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY | Youth Workforce Academy | [Read Full Submission](#)

In an effort to promote proficient development in young citizen students, Prince George County Public Schools, Prince George County, and Prince George Promise, a 501(c)(3) not-for- profit organization whose goal is to work toward increasing the awareness of the needs of youth, collaborated in partnership to establish the Prince George Youth Workforce Academy . This youth workforce development program fosters professional attributes in individuals ages 14 to 16. The program focuses on instructing a seven week

curriculum that emphasizes "soft" skills to prepare young aspiring professionals for immediate entrance and success in the labor force or future education opportunities. In correlation, the development expands outside of the classroom where the selected students complete internships at local businesses within the community. During the internships, the students utilize the professional skills that are cultivated during the curricula instruction. This program successfully prepares young individuals in tactics to actively pursue employment in a professional manner. The refinement of these students is completed by placing them in professional job settings, granting them the atmosphere to utilize their enhanced professional abilities.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY | Ebola Response Plan | [Read Full Submission](#)

In October of 2014, staff had been monitoring the recent developments in Africa and the increase in the number of cases of Ebola that were being identified and treated. It was deemed to be a significant potential risk and hazard for the region and emergency medical response personnel. It was determined that the present policies and procedures associated with infectious diseases were not adequate for this level of incident mitigation. The Department of Fire and Rescue staff assembled personnel to begin evaluating the present situation with the goal of developing an emergency response plan. It was identified early in this project that stakeholders from County and state government would have direct involvement and would need to be assembled to provide direct input on their areas of expertise. As we began the process of collecting information, we had to identify conflicts between present procedures and methods of operation that would have to be employed to safely protect the patient and staff during these high risk events. The emergency response plan was developed in conjunction with the identified stakeholders, and meetings were conducted to review the current situation. As we progressed through each segment of the planning project, significant research on the biological, physical, and infectious properties had to be completed based on the limited resources for conclusive information. It was the collaborative effort between the Department of Fire and Rescue, Prince William County Emergency Management, the Virginia Department of Health, and the County's Public Safety Communications Center personnel.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY | Infectious Disease Exposure Control Policy & Plan for the Assessment, Management, and Control of Occupational Exposure to Infectious Pathogens | [Read Full Submission](#)

Prince William County (PWC) Government, Virginia has developed a comprehensive infection control program, known as the *Plan for the Assessment, Management, and Control of Occupational Exposure to Infectious Pathogens,* and more concisely called the Exposure Control Plan, or ECP. The ECP vastly expands upon the more common plan required by OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard. The Plan encompasses a wider diversity of communicable diseases that can be transmitted from person to person, as well as incorporating the more comprehensive range of infectious disease exposures that employees may encounter, such as those transmitted via animals, plant, and insects. PWC's ECP serves as the overarching program guidance and policy for all potential employee pathogen exposures. The ECP adopts widely regarded risk and occupational

safety and health management techniques, including risk identification, analysis, and control.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY | Sustainable Evidence-Based EMS Education | [Read Full Submission](#)

The EMS Training Division has trained paramedics to serve the Prince William County community for more than five years. Due to trends in evidence-based medicine over the past ten years, the program needed to transform from a traditional classroom-based model, to a model driven by performance, expertise and produces the high quality medical professional team that community members expect when they encounter 911 emergency medical services. A three-pronged framework guided the team for this transformation. The three areas of strategic planning included: administrative and educational alignment, streamlined technology and optimized agency partnerships. The innovative and novel approach the Training Division took to transform the delivery of the 2014- 2015 Paramedic Program highlights the creativity, teamwork, excellence and responsibility to both the students in the program and the County residents the team believes in.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY | Volunteer of the Quarter Program | [Read Full Submission](#)

The Volunteer of the Quarter Program (VOQ) was established to provide an innovative means to ensure that all volunteers, who so diligently and freely give their time and talents, can be nominated and recognized for their contributions. Over the last 25 years, the VOQ Program has facilitated the recognition of over 100 citizens whose volunteer efforts positively impact all County departments and the community we serve. Every quarter, a rotating, cross-departmental VOQ Committee accepts nominations and collaborates to select the most outstanding volunteers to publicly thank and recognize. Nominations are submitted to Human Resources and then forwarded to the Committee. Each nominee is evaluated on the following criteria: (1) willingness to "go above and beyond," exceeding expectations through providing community service, (2) solving a particular problem or meeting a community need and (3) setting an example through leadership and reliability. The decision is sometimes difficult, but the Volunteer earning the most votes is presented with a personal letter from the County Executive, and an invitation to attend a Board of County Supervisors (BoCS) meeting to be recognized. In the programs' 25-year history, every single recipient has accepted the invitation to attend the recognition - a testament to the respect they have for the agency and their desire to say thank you.

SHENANDOAH COUNTY | Shenandoah County Sustainable Farm Demonstration | [Read Full Submission](#)

Shenandoah County's comprehensive plan calls for maintaining our rural character AND a vibrant agricultural economy. This County Farm Demonstration contributes to achieving that vision. The Shenandoah County Farm is in a unique position to help address these issues. The farm is owned by Shenandoah County. It was released to the county in the year 1798 for the sole use and benefit of the poor. The historic Alms House located on the county farm was used for this purpose until a tragic fire destroyed the

house in April 2014. The county's goal is to convert the 160 acres farmland surrounding the Alms House site into this Sustainable Farm Demonstration. There are about 55 acres of pasture on the farm. Cattle were using a pond and a small stream for their water supply. Cattle were continuously grazed (with no cross fencing). A portion of this pasture was highly overgrown because the fence was in disrepair. A barn on the farm was beginning to show significant disrepair. The lease was a year-to-year affair and the farmer had little certainty he would have the property from one year to the next. The farmer had been using no-till farming practices on the 90 acres of cropland. Thus, soil erosion was minimal. However, even with the no-till there were gullies on the farm. Also, some of the cropland needed to be rotated to grass hay but due to the year-to-year nature of the lease, the farmer could not justify the investment. This type of scenario is repeated hundreds of times across the Shenandoah Valley.

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY | Spotsylvania Environmental Education Development | [Read Full Submission](#)

Spotsylvania County's Environmental Education Division has been educating students and residents for the past nineteen years. We needed to revitalize our program and offer a new experience. Today's generation is high tech and web savvy. To be able to capture the attention of students as well as residents we decided to give them a whole new experience, one that we knew would offer cutting edge technology. Like many other localities, we have issues with litter, low recycling rates, and wasting of our precious natural resources. We needed to show our students the issues at hand and to offer up solutions they could use to help stop littering, recycle more, and make better decisions concerning our environment. Our SEED program answers many questions and offers solutions to make our County a more pleasant place to live and work.