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News Release

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Virginia Counties Recognized for Model Programs

The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2008 Achievement Awards recognizing model local government programs.

The winning counties and program titles are:

- **Albemarle County:** Public Planning Program and Staff/Management Resources Intranet Site (Communications)
- **Bath County:** Free Dental Program (Health & Human Services)
- **Chesterfield County:** Central Virginia Most Wanted (Criminal Justice & Public Safety)
- **Cumberland County:** Cooperative and Budget-Minded Approach to an Innovative Countywide Communications System (Information Technology)
- **Fairfax County:** Healthy Women: Healthy Babies (Health & Human Services)
- **Fauquier County:** Recycling Innovations (Environmental)
- **Isle of Wight County:** GIS Cemetery Layer for Historic Preservation Best Practices (Information Technology)
- **James City County:** Succession Management Assignments: Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders (Organizational Development)
- **Loudoun County:** Career Development Program (Organizational Development)
- **New Kent County:** New Kent University (Communications)
- **Prince William County:** Mediation Swap (Customer Service)
- **Spotsylvania County:** Patriot Park (Environmental)

VACo received 34 entries for the statewide contest. Tedd Povar, associate director of the Virginia Institute of Government; Wendell Seldon, former Winchester city manager and former director of Virginia's department of general services; and Brenda Garton, former Orange County and Prince George County administrator, served as judges for this year's statewide awards program.

“This is more than just an awards program,” said James Campbell, VACo executive director. “These projects represent the very best in innovative ideas that have produced positive results. An added benefit is that the programs can be replicated throughout the state and the country.”

Povar, who has served as judge for several years, commended the quality of the entries. “Since I’ve been a judge, this year was the best because almost every submission was worthy of winning,” Povar said. “The quality of programs throughout the state tells me that we have many talented and skilled county employees in every region of the Commonwealth.”

The VACo Achievement Awards is a competitive program open to local government members of the association. Held annually, it recognizes local government programs in awards criteria that include innovation, collaboration and model practices.

Several environmental-based projects were submitted in 2008, prompting the judges to create a new category. Also, for the first time in recent memory, no county won more than one award.

Representatives from each of the award-winning counties will receive a certificate at an official ceremony during VACo’s 2008 Annual Conference in November.

VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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