PRESS RELEASE

Virginia Counties Recognized for Model Programs

RICHMOND (August 5, 2014)—The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is pleased to announce the 18 recipients of the 2014 Achievement Awards recognizing model local government programs.

The winning counties, program titles and categories are:

- **BEST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD—Loudoun County:** "You Belong @ Your Library" (Customer Service)
- **Buckingham County:** "Digital Justice" (Information Technology)
- **Chesterfield County:** "County-Wide Inspection Project" (Community and Economic Development)
- **Chesterfield County:** "Whack-A-Watt" (Environmental)
- **Fairfax County:** "Project Manager Guide" (Organizational Development)
- **Frederick County:** "Creation of the Lake Holiday Sanitary District" (Customer Service)
- **Hanover County:** "Solid Waste Compactor Stormwater Pollution Prevention" (Environment)
- **Henrico County:** "ESL Conversation Café" (Customer Service)
- **Henrico County:** "It's Your Decision: Meals Tax Referendum Public Information Campaign" (Communications)
- **Henrico County:** "Re-Imagine Training: Learning Through Conversations" (Organizational Development)
- **Loudoun County:** "Eastern Loudoun Transportation Study: Keeping Loudoun Moving" (Transportation)
- **Loudoun County:** "Loudoun Evening Reporting Center" (Health and Human Services)
- **Pittsylvania County:** "Tobacco Barns Preservation Project" (Environmental)
- **Prince William County:** "Veterans Enhanced Transportation Service" (Health and Human Services)
- **Pulaski County:** "Emergency Management Deputy Coordinators" (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)
- **Roanoke County:** "GIS Maps and Apps Gallery" (Information Technology)
- **York County:** "Expanding the Use of the Knox Box Entry System" (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

- **York County:** "Marking Vehicles to Reduce Repeated Responses" (Criminal Justice and Public Safety)

VACo received 61 entries with winners selected in nine categories.

Tedd Povar, Associate Director of the Virginia Institute of Government; **William Quarles**, former Goochland County Supervisor; and **Linda Lumpkin**, retired Essex County Deputy County Administrator, served as judges for this year's statewide competitive awards program.

"This is the 12th year of the Achievement Awards program, and we continue to have high interest from our members," said **James Campbell**, VACo executive director. "I'd like to thank our counties for their participation. This year we received 61 entries, and the competition was fierce. But I think the program's reputation as a competitive one is spreading because the quality of the entries was top notch."

The judges selected one submission as the "Best Achievement." The winner of this year's distinction is Loudoun County. This is what Lumpkin had to say about Loudoun County's "You Belong @ Your Library" program.

"Loudoun County's entry demonstrated what can be accomplished when volunteers in our communities and government join to help others, in this case, promoting literacy and local connections for those with intellectual disabilities, sensory integration challenges, autism spectrum disorder and physical disabilities," Lumpkin said. "This is an awesome interactive program."

Povar has served as judge numerous times but this is the first year the program required only electronic submissions. "VACo streamlined the process, and I think that helped increase the submissions," Povar said. "The 61 entries are the second-most ever, which shows that many counties are developing innovative programs to address issues in their jurisdictions."

Quarles also raved about the quality of the entries. "I've served as judge before and each time it is a rewarding and wonderful learning experience," Quarles said. "I've been retired for a couple of years and being a judge reminded me of the great work Virginia's counties do every day."

The VACo Achievement Awards is a competitive program open to local government members of the association. For more information, visit VACo's Achievement Awards website (http://www.vaco.org/membership/achievement-awards) to view all 2014 entries (http://www.vaco.org/membership/achievement-awards/2014-achievement-awards-entries).

Visit here for past winners and here for past judges.

Representatives from each of the award-winning counties will receive a certificate at an official ceremony during VACo's 2014 Annual Conference in November. Also, VACo will present awards at Board of Supervisors meetings.