



News from

Congressman Rick Boucher

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BOUCHER/GOODE ANNOUNCE FEDERAL FUNDING TO PATRICK COUNTY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Workforce Readiness Training Program to be established

(Washington, D.C.) – U. S. Representatives Rick Boucher and Virgil Goode announced today that the federal government, at their request, has appropriated \$282,000 to Patrick County Education Foundation (PCEF) for the purpose of establishing a Workforce Readiness Training Program (WRTP) for residents of Patrick County.

PCEF is an organization devoted to providing educational opportunities for Patrick County residents. PCEF was established to encourage County residents to prepare for 21st Century employment by creating educational opportunities, and incentives for lifelong learning. The foundation has set the goal of raising the County's educational profile from the bottom tenth among Virginia localities to a place among the Commonwealth's top five rural counties within a ten year period. Attainment of this goal will enable the County to attract new businesses, to help residents earn more competitive wages, and to increase Patrick County's standard of living.

The federal funds announced today will be used to establish a Workforce Readiness Training Program in conjunction with Patrick County Public Schools Adult Education Program. This workforce development project will include an Employment Certification course, as well as a Technology Certification course, and will be offered at several sites around the County, depending on the areas of greatest demand. Each course will utilize traditional classroom, Internet, and personal computer based instruction, supplied by PCEF and Patrick County Public Schools, to provide unemployed or under-employed residents in the County with job skills training.

The Employment Certification course will provide instruction in several basic skill areas including math and reading comprehension, as well as on-the job-skills such as conflict resolution, effective communication in the workplace, and professionalism while the Technology Certification course will provide participants with necessary training in computers. Students will receive word processing, spreadsheet, personal computer presentation, and basic computer literacy training.

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“Improving the educational opportunities for the residents of Southwest Virginia is among my top priorities. I am pleased that the PCEF now has the federal funding necessary to form the Workforce Readiness Training Program which will benefit the residents of Patrick County,” Boucher said.

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