

# Nelson receives 2007 Hutchens Petroleum Technical Trades Scholarship

The Patrick County Education Foundation has announced the 2007 recipient of the Hutchens Petroleum Technical Trades Scholarship. Joseph Nelson, son of Steve and Nancy Nelson of Spencer, was recently selected to receive the scholarship.

Nelson will attend Southside Virginia Community College where he will pursue studies in the diesel technician program. He also plans to complete Southside's heavy equipment operator training and truck driver training programs.

The Hutchens Petroleum Technical Trades Scholarship, a one-time \$1,000 award, was first offered in 2006. To be eligible, applicants must be Patrick County residents, enroll in one of several technical trades programs of study through an accredited post-secondary institution and plan to return to Patrick County after graduation.

"We are pleased to award the 2007 Hutchens Petroleum Technical Trades Schol-



Pictured (left to right) are Susan Huff, college access program coordinator, Patrick County Education Foundation; scholarship recipient Joseph Nelson; and Tim Hutchens, president of Hutchens Petroleum.

arship to Joseph Nelson," said Tim Hutchens, president of Hutchens Petroleum of Stuart. "This young man possesses all the characteristics we look for in our scholarship recipients—he is excited about preparing for a career in the technical trades and he

plans to return to Patrick County to live and work after graduation.

"We hope through this scholarship program to encourage more young people like Joseph to go into the trades. There are many good job opportunities right here in our area in

diesel engine repair, heavy equipment operation and other trades. Most of these jobs pay well, but area businesses are having a hard time finding qualified people to fill them. Hutchens Petroleum is proud to offer this scholarship as a way to prepare our young people for rewarding careers right here in Patrick County."

According to Susan Huff, PCEF college access coordinator, the Hutchens Petroleum scholarship represents a much-needed resource. "In years past, we have not had many scholarship funds earmarked specifically for students who wish to train in the technical trades," she said. "We have many hard-working and deserving students who are interested in these career fields, yet we need more scholarship opportunities like the Hutchens Petroleum Technical Trades Scholarship to reward, encourage and assist them to get the training they need and want."

Huff added, "The automotive, construction and transportation industries are identified by the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative as among the 12 fastest growing industries in the nation in terms of projected job growth. We need to be certain that Patrick County students who are interested in careers in these and similar industries have every opportunity to get

the training they need to prepare for them. This scholarship is a big step in that direction."

When asked for his comments, Nelson said, "I just want to thank Hutchens Petroleum for this scholarship. I'll put it to good use. It will help pay a large portion of my education costs." The scholarship is funded by Hutchens Petroleum and administered by the PCEF through its College Access program.