

36 Adult Students Receive Tek-Advantage Certification

The first thirty six graduates of the Tek-Advantage certification course were honored at a ceremony on Friday, June 5 at Patrick Henry Community College's Stuart campus. The Tek-Advantage Certification Program is the first of several workforce training programs developed and funded by the Patrick County Education Foundation.

The Foundation met with County employers in November to seek suggestions concerning the development of workforce training programs which would accrue significant benefit to both employers and employees. The employers endorsed a program that would certify the competency of existing and potential employees in the area of basic computer knowledge and applications.

The Foundation sought the assistance of the Tek-Xam program. Tek-Xam was developed by the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges to provide for the technological certification of college graduates. Tek-Xam provided curriculum and testing development. The Foundation then received assistance from PHCC in the final course development, presentation format, and final certification testing.

Thirty six students have completed the course and passed all four certifications. These students were honored with a certificate presentation ceremony sponsored by PCEF and PHCC.

Cindy Griffith, Site Coordinator, PHCC – Patrick Site, welcomed the students and congratulated them on their hard work and accomplishment. Griffith also praised instructors Geri Hazelwood, Wilma Pendleton, and Teresa Rakes who assisted in final curriculum design and testing.

PCEF Executive Director, Jerry Hughes provided participants background information concerning the origination, development, and purpose of the Tek-Advantage Certificate. Hughes stated, "the Tek-Advantage Certificate is the first of many workforce training programs the PCEF plans to offer as a part its commitment to make Patrick County more attractive to prospective new employers and to enhance the economic vitality of the County".

Hughes also spoke of the tremendous degree of support received from PHCC staff from development through implementation of the program. Hughes stated, "PHCC's cooperation and development has been superb throughout the process and the Foundation looks forward to a continued relationship which will accrue significant benefits to the residents of Patrick County".

Rhonda Hodges, PHCC Coordinator for Workforce Development thanked the PCEF for the opportunity to partner on the Tek-Advantage Certification program, congratulated certificate recipients, and also spoke of the Colleges eagerness to provide additional training programs.

Twenty students are currently enrolled in a subsequent Tek-Advantage Certification course and another is planned to begin in October. To enroll call PHCC – Patrick site at 694-8778.