

Our e-Press Kit

This e-Press Kit is prepared to assist members of the media in quickly accessing key information about the Patrick County Education Foundation. If additional information is needed, please consult our website at www.patrickfoundation.net or call us at (276) 694-7233.

About the Patrick County Education Foundation

Our Mission:

The Patrick County Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization created in 2001 as an economic development initiative to increase in ten years the County's educational attainment levels to rank among the top five rural counties in Virginia and, in so doing, attract the interest of businesses wishing to locate in a rural area of Virginia.

Our Goals:

The goals of the Patrick County Education Foundation are to, by 2011

- Increase the percentage of high school graduates who attend college,
- Reduce by half the number of adults without a high school diploma, and
- Enhance the workforce skills and employment opportunities of our adult citizens.

Our Programs:

To achieve these goals, the Foundation has launched a three-phase initiative that includes these programs:

- **College Access Program**—to encourage and assist Patrick County's young people to continue their education after high school,
- **GED Promotion Project**—to aggressively market the County's existing GED (high school equivalency) program and encourage adults without a high school diploma to go back to school to get their GED, and
- **Workforce Training Program**—to expand the workforce skills and employment opportunities of the County's adult citizens through quality free job-training that is in-step with employer needs today and in the future.

Our Anticipated Outcomes:

Through successful implementation of these three programs, referred to as our “three-legged stool” initiative, the Foundation is providing the leadership, training and support necessary to:

- Change the way Patrick County citizens view education,
- Increase opportunities for and participation in job training and education,
- Pave the way to a brighter economic future for our community by developing a well-trained, educated workforce that is ready for employment in the “new economy” businesses of today and tomorrow, and
- Move Patrick County into the top 5 rural counties in the Commonwealth in education attainment levels by 2011.

Our Relationships with Others:

The Patrick County Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2001 as an education-driven economic development initiative serving the people of Patrick County, Virginia. The Foundation’s Board of Directors includes leaders from local government and business and civic organizations as well as Patrick County natives who have “made their mark” elsewhere, but who now reside outside the County.

The Foundation is leading a community-based effort to raise the educational attainment level of our County’s adult citizens by:

- Enabling more high school graduates to pursue postsecondary education,
- Encouraging more adults to complete their high school diploma, and
- Providing relevant, quality job-training to members of the County’s adult workforce.

As the Foundation strives to enhance the education infrastructure and heighten citizens’ appreciation for education here in Patrick County, we are at the same time creating programs, services, and methodologies that can be implemented effectively in other similar settings. This potential for replication of Foundation initiatives in other rural communities across Virginia and beyond is of great importance to our success locally but also to the economic strength and resilience of the region and the Commonwealth.

The Foundation’s success in raising education levels in Patrick County and in creating an education-driven approach to economic development relies on our ability to build and nurture partnerships with many federal, state, regional and local entities—government agencies, businesses, economic development organizations, healthcare providers, educational institutions, and Patrick County Public Schools, to name just a few. We value these partnerships and continually seek opportunities to create new ones. Through them, the Foundation is able to identify education and job-training needs, develop and fund new programs and services to meet those needs and thereby raise the education attainment levels and job-preparedness of the County’s workforce.

Where the Money Goes

All funds generated by, appropriated to or donated to the Foundation are put to work right here in Patrick County to:

- Develop and deliver services,
- Fund GED graduate and GED mentor incentives and “Last Dollar” scholarships,
- Provide programs to prepare middle and high school students for postsecondary education,
- Offer free up-to-date job training for adults, and much more.

Donors can see their dollars at work here in Patrick County and can play an important and very personal role in creating a brighter future for the County’s citizens.

Date Founded

October 2001

Details on the Foundation’s Programs and Services

For in-depth information on each of our programs, please go to our website www.patrickfoundation.net and click on **Our Programs** and the specific program of interest.

Progress To-Date

To see the latest data on our progress, please go to our website www.patrickfoundation.net and click on **About Us, Our Progress** and **About Us, Our Financial Information**.

Our Board of Directors

For information on our Board of Directors, please go to our website www.patrickfoundation.net and click on **Our Board of Directors and Staff**.

Our Staff

For information about and contact information for our Staff, please go to our website www.patrickfoundation.net and click on **Our Board of Directors and Staff**.

Foundation Contact Information

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Other Foundation Contacts

For contact information for specific staff members or regarding specific topics, please go to the **Contact Us** page of our website: www.patrickfoundation.net