

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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73 Patrick County Residents Receive TekAdvantage Certification

Seventy-three Patrick County residents were honored Friday night, December 10, in a **TekAdvantage** Certification Ceremony held at Patrick Henry Community College's Stuart site. These students were members of the eighth, ninth and tenth classes from the **TekAdvantage Certification Program**, a workforce training course developed and funded by the Patrick County Education Foundation.

Cindy Griffith, Site Facilitator for the Stuart site of Patrick Henry Community College and **TekAdvantage** Coordinator, welcomed students and congratulated them on their hard work and accomplishment. Griffith then recognized **TekAdvantage** instructors Geri Hazelwood and Tammy Bullins for their commitment to the success of the three classes' graduates. Jerry Hughes, Executive Director of the Patrick County Education Foundation, delivered greetings from the Foundation Board of Directors and gave a brief overview of the development of the **TekAdvantage** course. "The Foundation is very pleased to offer the **TekAdvantage** program to the people of Patrick County," stated Hughes. "We believe that this program, and the many others that we offer now and will offer in the future, will provide our citizens with the up-to-date training needed to successfully compete for and perform the jobs of tomorrow. We are appreciative of the enthusiasm you have shown for **TekAdvantage** and are excited about the opportunities it will provide to each of you, on-

the-job and in all areas of your life.” Following Hughes’ remarks, he and program instructor Geri Hazelwood presented certificates to each **TekAdvantage** graduate.

TekAdvantage is the first of several workforce training courses to be offered through the Patrick County Education Foundation’s *Workforce Training Program*. It is a 4-week instruction and certification course in basic computer skills and applications and addresses four areas of competency: basic computer knowledge, word processing, spreadsheet, and the Internet. **TekAdvantage** certification provides employers with a means of assuring the competency of existing and potential employees in the areas of basic computer use and applications. A number of prominent employers recognize this certification and use it in their hiring and promotions decisions.

The Foundation’s first **TekAdvantage** class began in June 2003. Since then, 234 Patrick County residents have graduated from the Foundation’s 10 classes and received certification in all four **TekAdvantage** areas. A second *Workforce Training Program* course, the **Career Readiness Certification Program**, was launched earlier this fall. Its first class will graduate on Thursday, December 16th in a ceremony at 6 PM at the Stuart site of Patrick Henry Community College.

For information on upcoming **TekAdvantage** and **Career Readiness Certification Program** classes, call the Patrick Henry Community College, Stuart site, at (276) 694-8778.

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