

2003 Report of the Virginia Business- Education Partnership

December 12, 2003

Virginia Business-Education Partnership
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Leni Gonzalez, Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Mark R. Warner
Governor

Office of the
Virginia Business-Education Partnership

Belle S. Wheelan
Secretary of Education

Leni Gonzalez
Executive Director

December 15, 2003

TO: The Honorable Mark R. Warner
Governor of Virginia
and
Members of the General Assembly

Section 2.2-210 of the Code of Virginia requests that the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade present a report to the General Assembly regarding private sector and education partnership programs. Therefore, we have the honor of submitting herewith the 2003 Report of the Virginia Business-Education Partnership with regard to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Belle S. Wheelan in cursive.

Belle S. Wheelan
Secretary of Education

Handwritten signature of Michael J. Schewel in cursive.

Michael J. Schewel
Secretary of Commerce and Trade

Enclosure

2003 Report to the General Assembly of the Virginia Business-Education Partnership

The Virginia Business-Education Partnership (VBEP) closed its offices on December 31, 2003. The U.S. School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994, which was the major source of funding for VBEP from 1994-2001, and the sole source from 2001 forward, ended on September 30, 2001, and was not reauthorized. In October 2002, the U.S. Department of Labor asked those states that still had school-to-work grants open to close by the end of 2003.

The Virginia Business-Education Partnership has worked statewide to promote, help build and recognize partnerships among schools, businesses, parents and community organizations that are working to increase student achievement and prepare students for successful lives and careers in the 21st century. Specifically, VBEP has managed the Virginia School-to-Work Initiative, promoting quality mentoring, student access to post-secondary education and training opportunities, career exploration and student achievement on Virginia's Standards of Learning. With guidance from a Governor-appointed Advisory Council, VBEP has sought to meet parents' expectations for their children and support new and innovative local partnerships that improve academic achievement.

Program Development and Overarching Themes

A high quality education is among the most valuable assets a generation may bestow upon the next, providing knowledge, values and critical thinking skills necessary for young men and women to succeed in life and become active and responsible citizens. Students who graduate from high school today must be prepared to tackle new and dynamic challenges throughout their careers. Having a strong foundation of knowledge in core academic subjects and the ability to think critically will help them achieve success both in work and in life. Therefore, Virginia has made strong academics the cornerstone of workforce preparation in the Commonwealth as it relates to K-12 public education.

Through his support of Virginia's Standards of Learning and Standards of Accreditation, Governor Warner has worked to ensure that excellent schools with high standards and genuine accountability are available to all students. He also supports economic development in the Commonwealth and encourages parents, business owners and community leaders to explore partnerships with schools to help increase student achievement and learning. Local partnerships that bring greater business and community involvement in our schools are a powerful source for strengthening those schools and making a difference in the lives of children.

In addition to a strong academic focus, Virginia recognized the importance of providing students with career information and opportunities to obtain vocational or technical training or other career-related or pre-collegiate instruction in high school. Clear leadership from Richmond has encouraged and helped localities across Virginia to develop school-to-work initiatives that

meet their local needs. In short, Virginia developed and implemented an effective school-to-work initiative that complemented overall education reform efforts in the Commonwealth.

With this important vision in mind, school-to-work dollars in Virginia allowed VBEP to help build and fund partnerships that:

- Supported increased student academic achievement as measured by the Virginia Standards of Learning;
- Promoted student internships and other after-school work or mentoring experiences that support academic achievement and career exploration;
- Strengthened vocational and technical course offerings for students who choose them;
- Increased parental involvement in their children's schools and education; and
- Facilitated student access to post-secondary education or training opportunities of the student's choice.

Benefits of Business-Education Partnerships for Stakeholders

When Virginia's students are well prepared for both college and entering the workforce, economic development in Virginia naturally benefits. Partnerships are beneficial for businesses in the following ways:

- Providing a more highly-skilled workforce
- Reducing company time and money spent on in-house training and remedial teaching
- Enhancing public profile and positive community relations
- Producing better qualified job applicants
- Providing tax benefits of charitable contributions
- Providing better understanding by students and educators of the needs, expectations and requirements of the work world

Partnerships are beneficial for schools in the following ways:

- Offering acquisition of expertise, technical assistance and technology
- Increasing support for schools among businesses and the community
- Increasing awareness of the needs of businesses
- Providing assistance that stretches limited dollars through donations of time, materials, equipment or funds

Partnerships are beneficial for students in the following ways:

- Providing expanded educational opportunities
- Motivating excellence in school
- Providing the relevance of academics to one's life
- Offering exploration of career opportunities
- Increasing access to post-secondary education and training

- Offering access to mentors, tutors and role models beyond school personnel
- Providing opportunities to learn from those who use the latest technology in their profession

VBEP Advisory Council

A 20-member Advisory Council to VBEP has assisted the Governor and the Secretary of Education in developing and implementing education partnerships and initiatives that helped improve Virginia's public schools. By statute, membership on the Advisory Council included Virginians from all walks of life, such as teachers, local school board members, and representatives from higher education, business and government. The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade were ex-officio members of the Advisory Council. Attached is a complete list of VBEP's 2003 Advisory Council members.

Programs, Services and Activities of VBEP

VBEP has been home to the Virginia School-to-Work Initiative from its inception because of the role that education partnerships can serve in supporting local schools. The Virginia Department of Education served as the fiscal agent for VBEP. VBEP's role was to: coordinate meetings and other involvement of Virginia's school-to-work stakeholders and partners; further develop and implement state-level school-to-work projects and policies; oversee the award of grants to local partnerships and local pilot initiatives, statewide partnership and technical assistance programs; encourage the formation of new partnerships; assist existing partnerships with building and sustaining their initiatives; and oversee the assessment and ongoing evaluation of the Virginia School-to-Work Initiative.

The centerpiece of partnership-building activities at VBEP was Local Partnership Grants that were made available to every school division in Virginia, and reinforced by technical assistance and accountability measures. VBEP also provided grants for local pilot initiatives, statewide partnership programs and technical assistance grants.

Local partnerships were encouraged actively through technical assistance and materials. Each grantee had access to technical assistance through numerous channels, including workshops, information from VBEP's staff and website, and assistance from other successful local partnerships funded by the Virginia School-to-Work Initiative.

VBEP's website offered program information in a user-friendly and visually appealing manner. Potential grantees were able to access program summaries of current grant recipients and availability of school-to-work funds. Grant information was also accessible through (1) a Grantee Directory that included data such as grant awards and contact information and (2) a Document Center that included grantee documents such as budget and reimbursement forms, progress report forms and Requests for Proposals.

VBEP regularly updated website information to reflect current grant activities. Grantee data from VBEP's database was linked to the VBEP website and increased the availability and accessibility of information.

Availability to All Students; Building Capacity

Overview

From July 1999 to date, VBEP has awarded approximately \$33 million in 219 grants to school divisions, post-secondary institutions and non-profit organizations. For the calendar year 2003, VBEP did not award any new grants, but continued to manage 120 grants that began in 2002 and ended between June 2003 and October 2003. Attached is a list of program summaries for all VBEP grant programs by grant round.

Following is a brief summary of the VBEP grants by category:

Local Partnership Grants:

VBEP administered Local Partnership Grants, which were available to school divisions for three years. In July 1999, VBEP began administering Round 1 of the Local Partnership grants. These 40 grants (representing 47 school divisions) were awarded almost \$16 million.

In July 2000, VBEP began administering Round Two of Local Partnership Grants. The 84 school divisions were awarded approximately \$13 million over a three year period.

The total awarded to Local Partnership Grants was \$28.5 million. VBEP is proud to report that all but three of Virginia's 132 school divisions were served through Local Partnership Grants.

Local Pilot Initiative Grants:

Beginning in 2000 in four grant rounds, VBEP awarded a total of \$1.3 million in Local Pilot Initiative Grants. These are non-renewable grants awarded to public or private schools, institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations.

Statewide Partnership Grants:

Beginning in 2001 in three grant rounds, VBEP awarded a total of \$1.6 million in Statewide Partnership Grants. These are non-renewable grants awarded to public or private schools, institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations.

In July 2002, Governor Warner launched a statewide partnership with business and community leaders, state educators, and local school and government officials to boost student achievement in Virginia's lowest academically performing schools. The Partnership for Achieving Successful Schools (PASS) Initiative assists more than 100 schools that have been "accredited with warning" in math and English. Because of VBEP's emphasis on SOL improvement and partnership building, VBEP assisted in the initial phases of the PASS Initiative.

By November 2002, VBEP awarded seven Statewide Partnership Grants totaling approximately \$750,000 to Longwood University, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Virginia, Virginia Mentoring Partnership, The Literacy Foundation, Achievable Dream and Hampton City Schools for programs addressing SOL assessment, tutoring, mentoring, professional development and parental involvement.

Statewide Partnership Grants are non-renewable grants awarded to public or STET schools, institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations that serve students statewide.

Technical Assistance Grants:

Since December 2000, VBEP has awarded approximately \$1.4 million to six technical assistance grants. These include: Virginia Commonwealth University School of Engineering/NASA/FIRST Robotics Competition for the 2001, 2002 and 2003 South-Atlantic Regional Competition; Virginia Tech/4-H Foundation Virginia LEGO 2002 Tournament; and Jobs for Virginia Graduates.

Policies and Support

Matching Funds. Local Partnership Grantees were required to obtain at least a 50% match (monetary or in-kind) to their grant award during year one. The matching requirement increased to 75% in year two and 100% in year three. The matching requirement increased from year to year as the grant funding decreased. Matching was not required for Local Pilot Initiatives, Statewide Partnership Grants or Technical Assistance Grants, but outside sources of funding were encouraged. Virginia was committed to implementing a school-to-work initiative that does not depend on federal funding.

Local Partnership Advisory Councils. To strengthen local partnership initiatives and to increase community involvement, Local Partnership Grantees were required to establish a Local Partnership Advisory Council. This Council consisted of representatives from businesses and representatives from the school board, post-secondary institutions, teachers, parents, students and a non-managerial representative from the public or private sector. At least half of the members must be business representatives. This variety in the makeup of the committee helped to ensure that Local Partnerships obtained solid advice and input from the community. The Councils were required to meet once a quarter.

School Board Approval. The Local Partnership Grant applications were reviewed and approved by the local school board of the school division before the application was submitted to VBEP. If school divisions formed a regional partnership, each school division's local school board approved the application.

Financial Report

Between 1994 and 1998, Virginia was awarded and liquidated \$1.6 million in federal funds under the School-to-Work Opportunities Act Development Grant to support state and local education reform efforts.

On September 30, 1998, Virginia was awarded the first installment of \$6.3 million in federal funds under the School-to-Work Opportunities Act Implementation Grant. The second installment, awarded in September 1999, totaled \$11.9 million and the third installment, awarded in September 2000, totaled \$9.1 million. The fourth and final installment of the Implementation Grant was awarded in October 2001 and totaled \$7.1 million. The total Implementation Grant award over the four year period is \$34.4 million.

The total awarded to VBEP for the School-to-Work Development and Implementation grants is \$36 million. As of December 1, 2003, VBEP had liquidated or obligated approximately \$35.9 million out of a total \$36 million grant.

Appendix A

Governor's Advisory Council

Governor's Advisory Council to the Virginia Business-Education Partnership

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Appendix B

Program Summaries

1999 Local Partnership Grants (Round 1) Program Summaries

Accomack County

The Accomack County Teaming for Student Success partnership is dedicated to helping improve SOL test scores for at-risk students in grades 4-8. The program involves students in both school-based and work-based learning opportunities to help students achieve higher levels of academic achievement. By implementing a proactive, early intervention program, the partnership provides Accomack students with an opportunity to learn about different careers, career paths, and to enroll in an academic cluster geared towards strengthening academic achievement. "Opportunity Classrooms" are being introduced during the 1999-2000 school year. These classrooms are designed for at-risk students who have fallen behind academically. Through small group instruction and accelerated lesson plans, students are being given an opportunity to improve overall academic skills and catch-up to their peers. Along with accelerated classroom instruction, students are involved in a career awareness component with employment opportunity mentors.

Albemarle County

The Albemarle County School Board and the Albemarle County Public Schools have partnered with the Charlottesville Albemarle Joint Advisory Council and the Charlottesville Albemarle School Business Alliance to form the Business Education Partnership for Success. The Business Education Partnership for Success (BEPS) provides academic and career planning skills for a minimum of 300 students whose achievement levels do not meet their ability as evidenced by a comparative analysis of report cards and standardized assessment scores. The partnership provides students with the academic skills and career planning knowledge that they need to graduate from high school and become productive citizens. Career planning activities include field trips, job shadowing experiences and an entrepreneurial project. Academic and work ethic skills are enhanced through seminars and workshops for students and parents.

Alexandria City

The Alexandria Education Partnership is a collaborative effort between the Alexandria Public School System, local business and industry, parents, students, and community organizations. The program's mission is to improve student academic achievement, attendance, and provide students with specific skills for career development. First, current tutoring and mentoring programs are being expanded by creating a central clearinghouse to better coordinate training and scheduling. Second, a formal career awareness and assessment program for middle school students is being developed. Third, a resource center for job placement and career awareness activities is being created. Fourth, School-to-Work and transition activities are being expanded to address the needs of at-risk high school students. Fifth, staff development targeting the implementation of the Virginia Standards of Learning into the vocational curricula is being

initiated. And sixth, a clearinghouse to coordinate and administer all School-to-Work activities is being created.

Alleghany Highlands

The Technical Site Visitation Program and the Career Exploration Partnership Program are designed to encourage average ability, at-risk tenth and eleventh graders to make sound educational decisions related to their future post-secondary ambitions. Also, the program expands their understanding and knowledge of the technical, ethical, and educational requirements for success in their chosen career. Student participants are provided with opportunities to visit, along with their parents, three college campuses and three community colleges during their junior year at Lancaster High School. Additionally, the students make four visits to various cooperating businesses during the school year. After completing visits, students choose those sites that most closely meet their needs and interests, and are placed to complete a job shadowing experience. The program exposes the students to the daily demands of their chosen career, and the skills necessary to be successful in today's workforce.

Arlington County

The Future Connect Project is a partnership between Arlington Public Schools, Reagan National Airport Authority, Delta and Continental Airlines, Arlington Hospital, and Marriott Hotels. The goal of the initiative is to improve the Standards of Learning (SOL) scores for seventh and eighth grade students via school and work-based learning opportunities. Students eligible for this program are those students who have performed poorly on SOL tests and who have had poor attendance. The program consists of two phases. Phase I targets the application of content information at a job site for a total of 20 hours. Students are placed for their work-based experience with one of the local business/industry partners. Phase II concentrates on the acquisition of core academic content in the classroom. Students meet with teachers, parent volunteers, and business representatives over a 27-week period for remediation related to the SOL core areas with emphasis on work/career world issues. Both program phases play a vital role in helping these students to improve SOL scores and develop marketable skills for the workforce.

Botetourt County

The Botetourt County Business/School Partnership is committed to supporting student academic achievement, fostering positive attitudes towards lifelong learning, and helping students make the transition from school to work. In order to achieve their goals, the partnership is establishing mentoring opportunities, holding job seeking skills workshops, maintaining a database of entry level job skill sets for local businesses, and involving teachers in career awareness activities. Activities of the partnership support improvement of student performance, encourage additional opportunities for parent involvement, support increased career education activities and job placement services, and support access to other post-secondary training. Increased

communication between school and the business community will result in the identification of other opportunities for support of educational goals.

Bristol City

The Bearcat Corporation is a partnership between the Bristol Virginia Public School System and the Bristol Chamber of Commerce. The mission of the partnership is to send graduates into the workforce with high academic skills and a strong work ethic. The program will help students improve academic achievement and career readiness by providing students with both work and school-based learning activities. In order to provide students with the necessary skills to be successful in future employment, the partnership is (1) strengthening the vocational/technical offerings in the business career cluster; (2) providing students with real work place experiences in a simulated corporate environment; (3) shifting the instructional paradigm from teacher controlled to student managed instruction in the business career cluster; (4) providing opportunities for achievement in high academic standards while achieving occupational goals; and (5) increasing parental involvement in educational career plans.

Charlotte County

Building Bridges from School to Work is a collaborative effort between the Charlotte Business Education Partnership and Charlotte County Public Schools. Located in rural Charlotte County, the Bridges program supports increased student achievement of Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL) by providing after-school and summer remedial programs for students in grades 6-12. Students who need extra help receive one-on-one and small group instruction. Among remedial programs for individuals not performing up to par on the SOL tests, students engage in after-school and summer internships that are geared to career exploration and academic achievement. The program provides students with access to college campus towns and prominent speakers from the community. The internships will serve as an opportunity for students to both acquire and apply core SOL content.

Chesterfield County

The Chesterfield School to Work Initiative is a collaborative effort forged by Chesterfield County Public Schools, John Tyler Community College, Cisco Systems, Inc., the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Richmond Automobile Dealers Association, and CapitalOne. Through the initiative, the partnership plans to implement the Greater Richmond Area Automotive Education Center, Cisco Networking Academies, PathFinder (an after school vocational/technical, job shadowing, and cooperative education program for at-risk students), and PM Tech (an advanced school-to-career data management system). Through the four programs, the Chesterfield School to Work Initiative plans to (1) increase students achievement on the Virginia Standards of Learning; (2) promote student internships and other after-school work or mentoring experiences; (3) strengthen vocational and technical course offerings; (4)

increase parental; and (5) facilitate student access to post-secondary education or training opportunities of the student's choice.

Culpeper County

The Culpeper Workforce Investment Steering Committee (WFISC) is a partnership comprised of the Culpeper County Public School System, the Culpeper Chamber of Commerce, local colleges and government, parents, students, teachers, and community leaders. The goal of the Committee is to establish an apprenticeship and shadowing program. Through hands-on, work-based learning opportunities, the WFISC is helping students to meet high, rigorous academic standards, and equip them with a better understanding of the workforce and the skills necessary to be successful.

Essex County

The Essex County School System has embarked on a comprehensive program to help at-risk and special education students both stay in school and improve SOL and GED scores. Essex County recognizes the need to help those students at-risk of dropping out of school or failing academically. The program is geared towards bringing the academic curriculum to life. By employing real world applications in high-demand jobs, the program is engaging and equipping students with the tools necessary for success in school and the workplace. Essex County has identified three career areas, which have either demonstrated high marketability or a high demand in the immediate or surrounding areas. The identified areas are nursing, law enforcement, and computer networking. Students who express an interest in one of the three areas will be placed and monitored closely. The program coordinator is building relationships within the community to create additional work placement opportunities. Through both work-based and school-based instruction, Essex County is helping to provide their at-risk population with hope and opportunity.

Fairfax County

The Careers and Learning Program links the Standards of Learning (SOL) science and technology curricula with real world career applications. The goal of the program is to improve the science and technology SOL scores of students attending Bryant, Mountain View, and Pimmit Hills Adult/Alternative High Schools by engaging students in both school and work-based activities. The alternative schools service Fairfax County School System students who meet one or more of a five point admission criteria: (1) out-of-school youth (over 18 with fewer than 10 high school credits); (2) pregnant/parenting youth; (3) youth with multiple suspensions/extensive disciplinary records; (4) youth with identified/unidentified disabilities; and (5) youth for whom English is a second language. To help bridge the gap between school and work, "Careers and Learning" engages students in various activities including internships, co-teaching, mentor programs, career fairs, and job fairs. These activities are coupled with vocational and technical course offerings geared towards the high-demand job market. Students

have access to computer repair and installation, graphic arts, and computer design programs. Through hands-on, real world activities and courses geared towards high-tech, high-demand jobs, the “Careers and Learning” program is helping to prepare students for a diverse and progressive job market in the new millennium.

Fauquier County

The Fauquier County Middle School Mentoring Program has targeted rising, at-risk ninth grade students for mentoring and academic remediation. A consortium of local businesses, parents, students, school board members, the Fauquier County Public Schools, and Lord Fairfax Community College sponsors the program. The primary goal of the program is to increase student achievement on the Virginia Standards of Learning and to provide after-school work and mentoring experiences that support academic achievement and career exploration. In addition to classroom instruction and SOL remediation, students are provided with an opportunity to shadow an actual employer and participate at a job site each afternoon for the duration of the program. Before the student arrives on the job, the student’s assigned mentor meets with the employer to identify the Standards of Learning that apply to the job and ascertain the knowledge and skills required of the student.

Franklin County

Franklin County Public Schools is establishing a Rising Youth Center to support the successful transition from middle to high school for 9th grade students who are at-risk of failure, school alienation, and dropout. The Center features student-directed Individual Transition Plans (ITP), an integrated academic and career/transition curriculum through the integration of technology, and a parent resource center. The intended outcomes of the program include: (1) increased student passage of the Standards of Learning tests in each of the required Carnegie unit classes; (2) increased participant skills in education and career planning; (3) increased student attendance; (4) increased parent and family involvement in each student’s educational program and transition planning for the future; and (5) strengthened community partnerships with business and industry with job coaching, mentoring and curriculum development.

Giles County

The Giles County Partnerships for Excellence Foundation, Inc. is comprised of families, schools, community groups, businesses, industries and governments. The partnership’s goal is to promote learning opportunities for at-risk students so that they reach their full potential. Through the collaborative efforts of the partnership members, the foundation is concentrating on three main areas. First, they are promoting after-school work experiences and internship opportunities that support both career exploration and academic achievement. Second, the partnership is establishing a tutoring program to help those students who are struggling to produce grade-level work and master the Standards of Learning. Tutoring sessions are provided three times weekly and are conducted by school members, parents, volunteers, and retired classroom teachers. Third,

through a partnership with New River Valley Magnet School for technology, Giles County juniors and seniors have an opportunity to earn both high school and college credit while developing valuable computer and technological skills.

Gloucester County

The Gloucester County Public Schools has launched the “A Common Thread” program in order to boost student achievement through work and school-based learning activities. The goals of the program are to increase student performance on the Virginia Standards of Learning; to increase parental involvement in school activities; and to provide students with opportunities to pursue post-secondary education or training. In order to achieve their goals, the Gloucester County Public Schools has embark upon three main initiatives. First, the program is providing additional time and help for students at its six elementary schools through the Homework Helpers after school program. Second, high school students are serving as tutors and mentors for elementary school students. Third, additional scholarships are being made available to students wishing to pursue post-secondary education.

Goochland County

Goochland County Public Schools has developed Goochland’s Online Connections program to support student achievement, staff development and parental involvement. The program will allow all Goochland County teachers to design a web-based lesson plan. The power of the online plan will be the SOL database and the accompanying objectives for the major academic areas. Teachers will be able to pull down objectives to support the SOLs, and develop communication tools for students and parents.

Halifax County

The Halifax County Career Center of the Halifax County Public Schools is helping students who are at-risk of dropping out of school, have dropped out of school, or have been removed from the regular education setting due to chronic discipline problems. The school system has partnered with Woodview Nursing Home, Hardee’s Drive Inn Restaurant, Burger King, Wendy’s, McDonald’s, and Food Lion Inc. Students receive computer-based and classroom instruction to help prepare them for the G.E.D test, as well as equip them with workforce and computer skills. By combining both work and school-based instruction, the Halifax County Career Center is helping to provide at-risk students with marketable skills and incentives to stay in school.

Hanover County

Hanover County Public Schools has partnered with over 100 local businesses, parents, teachers, students, and civic leaders to form the Hanover Educational Local Partnerships (HELP) program. The mission of the HELP is to serve as the unifying partnership force to accomplish the goals

and strategies of the Hanover County Public Schools Long-Range Plan, especially as they relate to partnership activities. Through the collaborative efforts of the community, HELP is (1) expanding SOL-based curriculum development and instruction in vocational and technical fields; (2) providing career exploration and development centers in all three HCPS high schools; (3) enhancing scholarship opportunities; and (4) sustaining and strengthening partnership programs.

Henry County

The “Oh Henry” Work Experience Program is a partnership between students, parents, middle and high school counselors, project personnel, and extensive representation from the local business community. The partnership combines both work and school-based learning activities for students in grades eight through twelve. The partnership strives to increase student learning and academic achievement on the Standards of Learning, while providing students with career information and workplace experiences that will assist them in making informed and fulfilling career choices. While student mastery of the Standards of Learning is the primary focus of the Henry County Schools, the system realizes the importance of providing students with opportunities to view real world application of the standards. Through career exploration, job shadowing, mentorships, internships, and apprenticeships, the “Oh Henry” Program is providing their students with the tools necessary to help them better understand the Standards of Learning, and to gain marketable skills for the world of work.

Lynchburg City

The Lynchburg City Schools has partnered with Central Virginia Community College and twelve area businesses in order to provide eleventh and twelfth grade students with mentoring and work/study opportunities. The Partnership aims to increase academic achievement and technical skills performance for students enrolled in Auto Body Repair, Commercial Printing, Automotive Service Technology, and Precision Machine Technology.

Manassas Park City

The Manassas Park City Schools, in partnership with local businesses, parents, and students, have developed the Manassas Park Computer Camp Partnership. The mission of the program is to improve academic achievement through the integration of technology in the classroom. The program is conducting weeklong computer camps throughout the summer and school year. Teachers and local business personnel collaborate to provide students with computer-based learning activities that are aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning. During the camp, students are invited to the perspective business sponsoring the camp, where they learn about the business and related careers. Additionally, students are able to see how the company utilizes computers and technology in their respective business.

Martinsville City

The Martinsville City School System has partnered with Shenandoah Furniture, Memorial Hospital of Martinsville and Henry County, Bassett-Walker, Pluma, Hampco Apparel, and Tultex to launch a new school-to-work initiative. The goals of the partnership are to strengthen vocational course offerings, increase mentoring opportunities for students, increase student achievement on the Virginia Standards of Learning, stimulate parent involvement in student learning, and provide links to professional job opportunities and post-secondary training. To increase student achievement, a workshop is being held to realign vocational competencies with the Virginia Standards of Learning. A part-time teacher will help facilitate the implementation of the Standards of Learning during mentoring experiences. A parents' meeting is being held twice yearly. Three new vocational courses are being added at Martinsville High School, and dual enrollment credits are being offered to students who wish to obtain college credit prior to secondary graduation. In addition, five \$1,000 scholarships are being awarded to low income students who have been both academically and vocationally successful, have exhibited interest in a career, and wish to further their education.

Mathews County

Mathews County Schools is partnering with parents and local businesses to launch an initiative to improve student achievement on the Standards of Learning tests. Parents serve as classroom aides and SOL curriculum guides to help students in grades 3,5, and 8 to improve and remediate low SOL scores. Although the remediation program is voluntary for students the first year, attendance is mandatory after the first year for those students who fail to achieve passing SOL scores. Through the help and support of two powerful community forces, local business and parents, Mathews County is moving one step closer to helping their students reach their full potential.

Middlesex County

The Middlesex County Public Schools, in collaboration with local business, community leaders, parents, and students, have launched an initiative to help prepare their students for gainful employment following graduation from high school. The goals of the program are to improve the reading levels of elementary students, and to develop and implement an internship program that will help students to gain valuable on-the-job work experience. The student population served is K-2 students for the reading initiative, and students in grades 10 through 12 for the internship program. The reading initiative addresses the most fundamental requirement for both students in school and for those in the workforce. The internship initiative addresses the need to provide high school students with appropriate work experiences and skill development to be successful in a technologically advanced workforce.

Northern Neck Regional

The Northern Neck Regional Vocational Partnership is a cooperative effort between the Town of Colonial Beach School Board, Northumberland County School Board, Richmond County School Board, and Westmoreland County School Board. The mission of the program is to successfully prepare their students, both academically and vocationally, for a technologically advanced and fast-paced workforce. The goals of the Partnership are to increase awareness of local job opportunities, expose students to local industry and businesses, improve academic achievement and scores on the Standards of Learning tests, and to successfully place students in full-time employment following graduation from high school.

Nottoway County

The EIEIO for Nottoway County Program is a partnership between the Nottoway County Public Schools, Southside Electric Cooperative, Burkeville Market, Spencer Drug Store, Coles Ladies Shop, Dunn Realty, Southside Virginia Community College, Southside Virginia Business and Education Commission, Nottoway County Policy Prevention Board, teachers, parents, and students. The goal of the EIEIO Program is to provide their students with the tools necessary to be successful in both the academic and occupational arena. The program is establishing “Career Centers” in Nottoway County elementary schools for students to begin their exploration of the world of work and careers. Parents are invited to speak to classes regarding their careers and the importance and relevance of a good education. Nottoway students in the middle grades (7th & 8th) visit the Amelia-Nottoway Vocational Center where they participate in hands-on activities related to careers. The middle school students have access to a career center located in their school guidance office. Students in grades 9-12 are involved in after-school internships or mentoring experiences that support academic achievement and career exploration. After school tutoring will be offered to at-risk students in grades 11 & 12.

Orange County

Hornet Technologies is a school-based enterprise licensed to do business in the state of Virginia. The program offers internship opportunities for high school students where they gain on the job training in computer hardware configuration and repair. Students must apply and be interviewed for unpaid, half-day internships with Hornet Technologies. Program technician interns configure, maintain, upgrade and repair PC's for customers. Training is based on industry standard practices and principles established by CompTIA in the A+ Certification exam for PC technicians. The program uses practical experience to reinforce core curriculum concepts (SOL's) and uses on the job training opportunities to support school-to-work transitions.

Peninsula Regional

The Peninsula Regional Educational Partnership (PREP) is a collaborative effort between Newport News, Hampton, Poquoson, Williamsburg/James City, and York County schools

divisions. This unique and large partnership has combined resources to provide their students with a comprehensive school-to-work program. Through the cooperative efforts of business/industry, parents, administrators, and civic leaders, the regional partners are engaging in programs to increase student academic achievement, develop career awareness, strengthen vocational and technical courses, and assist students in post-secondary education attendance. Each individual school division provides uniquely tailored programs to provide for the needs of their students. By pulling on their local resources, one school division is teaming with NASA to provide students with practical application in the areas of math and physics; two divisions have partnered with Newport News Shipbuilding to develop a school to work connection for students interested in drafting and design careers; and another division is developing a program to help parents get involved with student acquisition and mastery of the Standards of Learning at the elementary level.

Petersburg City

Petersburg Public Schools has partnered with B.I. Chemicals, Inc., John Tyler Community College, parents, and students to provide local youth with the Elements of Success program. Elements of Success has developed a model Students Apprenticeship Program for chemical technician positions at B.I. Chemicals, Inc. The mission of the program is to provide students with hands-on, work-based learning opportunities in order to equip them with marketable workforce skills. Students will participate in an apprenticeship-training program, which will lead to certification as a chemical technician and possibly full-time employment with B.I. Chemical, Inc. following graduation from high school.

Portsmouth City

The Portsmouth School-to-Work Partnership is a collaborative effort between the Portsmouth Public School System, the Making A Difference Foundation, Tidewater Community College, Southampton Roads' Alliance for Youth, Volunteer Hampton Roads, the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce, and the Portsmouth Schools Foundation. The Partnership is developing and implementing a program to meet the needs of approximately 800 secondary students and their parents. Students are identified from the three high schools, the four middle schools, the Excel Campus (an alternative school for students who were unsuccessful in their home school) and the New Directions Alternative School. The respective organizations have teamed together to help provide Portsmouth students with an opportunity to improve academic achievement while also gaining hands-on, real world work experience. Participants are being provided with after-school, evening, and weekend tutoring sessions geared to the Standards of Learning as well as job shadowing with a mentor, career exploration, and transition services.

Powhatan County

Powhatan County Public Schools has partnered with local businesses/industry, community organizations, local community colleges, parents, and students to create the Powhatan County

School-to-Work Initiative. The goal of the program is to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in a technologically advanced workforce. The program is employing both work and school-based learning activities in order to equip students with the necessary tools to be successful in the workplace. The Initiative is developing and implementing an Apprenticeship and Job Training Program that is increasing the variety and number of vocational course offerings; reinforcing the Virginia Standards of Learning and academic skills; providing apprenticeships and job training, promoting after-school work experiences; and facilitating student access to post-secondary education. The schools are working closely with local businesses to ensure that the Virginia Standards of Learning are addressed and reinforced.

Pulaski County

Pulaski County Public Schools has partnered with local businesses, New River Community College, parents, and students to offer local youth a comprehensive school-to-work program. The mission of the program is to provide students with both school and work-based learning opportunities in order to help them better understand the connection between academic theory and its application to the world of work. Students are participating in dual enrollment courses at New River Community College. This allows students to gain college credit while also meeting high school course requirements. Students are also participating in CISCO Networking Academies to gain hands-on experience while also gaining industry certifications. In addition, participants are gaining further work experience and certification opportunities through the on-site construction project. Students, with the direction of trained industry professionals, are building a home at the Pulaski Technical Center.

Richmond City

The Richmond Public Schools' school-to-work program is providing elementary, secondary, and adult students in the City of Richmond with an opportunity to develop and strengthen the academic and workplace skills needed to succeed in today's highly competitive, rapidly changing technological workplace. The primary goal of the program is to focus on enhancing and expanding the vocational curriculum and instruction in order to assist students with mastery of the Virginia Standards of Learning. Additionally, secondary goals involve providing opportunities for career orientation and exploration -- encouraging the development of dynamic, two-way school/business partnerships and promoting post-secondary education and training in adult apprenticeship programs, technical schools, community and four year colleges, and universities.

Roanoke County

The Roanoke County Public Schools Business-Education Partnership encourages innovative private sector and public school initiatives in order to support the new Standards of Learning (SOL) and Standards of Accreditation (SOA). In order to meet their goals of raising student achievement, the partnership has identified five major areas. The partnership will (1) promote

student internships and after-school work or mentoring experiences that support academic achievement and career exploration; (2) strengthen vocational and technical course offering for students who choose them; (3) increase parental involvement in their children's schools and education; (4) facilitate student access to post-secondary education or training opportunities; and (5) support increased student achievement on the Virginia Standards of Learning. The partnership's first strategies and activities are Saturday School, SOL remediation, a full-time collaborative teacher, professional development, scholarships, a parent contact line, mentoring activities, and job skills training.

Scott County

The Scott County School System business education grant program has partnered with local businesses and industry in order to improve performance on the Standards of Learning, increase parental involvement in student activities, and help students bridge the gap between academics and the world of work. The partnership focuses on establishing voluntary internships and other after-school work experiences for high school students in career fields of their interest. Scott County Schools has partnered with local businesses and industry to determine desirable skills and anticipated job opportunities over the next three years. The program is identifying high quality work experiences; providing transportation for rural and special needs students; and developing integrated school and work-based learning activities.

Smyth County

The Smyth Technology and Education Partnership is a collaborative effort between the Smyth County School System, local business and industry, parents, and students. The goal of STEP is to provide students with the academic and vocational skills necessary to successfully enter a dynamic and technologically advanced workforce. The program activities (1) support increased student achievement on the Virginia Standards of learning through hands-on activities concentrating on technology; (2) strengthen vocational and technical course offerings through a new course entitled "Get Ready to Work;" and (3) support student internships and other after-school work or mentoring experiences that support academic achievement and career exploration. These activities will be geared towards preparing students not heading directly to college to enter the workforce following graduation from high school.

Stafford County

Stafford County Public Schools has partnered with local agencies, parents, and local businesses/industry to create the Building Bright Futures program. Using the partnership's collaborative efforts, the program is improving academic achievement through contextual learning and promoting increased awareness of career opportunities. The program is divided into four sections. "The Early Entrepreneurs" (Grades K-5), is focusing on the academic skills needed in a global economy and awareness of the world of work. "Exploring Career Opportunities" (Grades 6-8) is integrating a high level of academic preparedness and career exploration. "Clear

Expectation” (Grades 9-12) is focusing on service learning, internships, experiential projects, career awareness, and occupational preparedness. To ensure parental support and involvement, a fourth component, “Parents as Partners,” is providing a common thread of parent involvement throughout all grade levels.

Virginia Beach City

The Creating Futures Partnership is developing a comprehensive student career development system for middle and secondary students that meets the personal, social, academic, occupational, and career planning needs for students. The needs of the students are met through a collaborative effort among students, teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, and community organizations. Through Career-Academic Preparation (CAP) Centers, students explore educational and career options, make career decisions, and establish career goals. Additionally, the CAP Centers serve as tutorial sights for the Standards of Learning (SOL) and SAT preparation. Students have access to computers with programs correlated to the new Standards of Learning.

Warren County

In partnership with Lord Fairfax Community College and local business and industry, Warren County Public Schools has launched an initiative to improve student scores on the Standards of Learning and provide both students and adult learners with job readiness skills. Through on the job training, job profiles generated by local industry, and a computer lab with employment and career software, students gain a higher level of knowledge in regards to career readiness, job skills, career exploration, technology, and how the Standards of Learning tie into the world of work. Work keys assessments provide the first opportunity for students to connect classroom learning to the world of work. The computer assisted instruction software will not only support Work Keys, but also the Virginia Standards of Learning. While improving their employment skills, students also have the opportunity to improve their SOL Achievement. The software will manage the amount of time students spend on specific tasks, pinpoint areas of weakness, and provide immediate feedback for both the student and the instructor.

2000 Local Partnership Grants (Round 2) Program Summaries

Alleghany Highlands

Building the Foundation for Success: Connecting Home and School is an innovative partnership between the Alleghany Highlands Public Schools, students, parents and local business partners to improve student achievement of Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL), increase parental involvement and provide high quality teacher staff development. This unique program utilizes a technology-based interactive program, Lightspan Achieve Now, that has been designed and customized for each first-grade student to use at home with their parents to practice skills introduced during the school day. In years two and three of the project, additional Lightspan packages will be added at other grade levels. Local businesses will provide incentives that reward student and parent participation, and sustain the commitment toward connecting school with home learning.

Amelia County

The Amelia Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Amelia County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Amherst County

The Amherst County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Amherst County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards

in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestiltskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Appomattox County

The “Kids-Span” (Kids, Schools & Parents Achieving Now) Project is a partnership between Appomattox County Public School District, local business partners, parents and students and is designed to improve student achievement on the SOL through the use of interactive technology that bridges the gap between school and home. Teachers will use the *Lightspan Achieve Now* program to introduce and reinforce classroom instruction. Students and their families will receive the customized *Lightspan* program to use at home, along with an inexpensive 32-bit CD-ROM drive that connects to any television set. This partnership will initially serve a group of 40 fifth grade students in a summer school remedial program and then will be used in two fifth grade classrooms throughout the school year. Additional classrooms will be added in years two and three of the grant. Local business partners will be involved in encouraging parents to attend workshops, providing materials for the workshops and donating incentives to encourage parent involvement.

Augusta County

Augusta County Schools is expanding existing partnerships with local businesses to offer additional vocational and academic opportunities for students from three middle schools and five high schools. Projects include: student construction of greenhouses in collaboration with local businesses and a local community organization; installation of a Computer-Assisted Drawing (CAD) laboratory at one high school and updates to the CAD labs at four other high schools; and improving technology materials at three middle schools in collaboration with local businesses. The partnership is also planning and implementing a student and parent orientation program in the agriculture and technology programs on post-secondary educational and career opportunities, including training available through Tech Prep and Virginia Tech’s two-year Agriculture Technology Program.

Bath County

Located in rural, mountainous Bath County, the Mertz Vocational Center at Bath County High School and the Homestead Hotel (a major employer in the area) have formed a partnership to develop a program in “Hospitality, Tourism and Recreational Services.” This three-year project will provide exploratory career awareness classes for middle school students and classes in hospitality services for high school students. A two-year sequence of classes will offer a

vocational completer's certificate in "Hospitality, Tourism & Recreational Services" for interested students.

Bedford County

Bedford County Public Schools has developed the *POWER* (Personal Opportunity Work-Skills Education and Responsibility) Program to help at-risk students in grades 8-12 achieve success in academics and the workforce by accessing rich community resources. Bedford County has initiated a partnership with parents, local businesses and local government service agencies to promote career exploration and work experience through programs that focus on employability, job search and job retention skills. *POWER* will promote increased course completion, intensive remedial programs, career information services, student internships, and vocational and technical instruction.

Bland County

The Partnership to Improve Student Achievement and Test Scores is a collaborative partnership between Bland County Public Schools, local business partners, parents and students. It is designed to improve academic achievement through the use of interactive test generated questions related to the Virginia SOL. This partnership will serve all students in grades 2 through 7 and secondary students enrolled in physical science, English 8, Math 8, Algebra I and Geometry. Special education students and students enrolled in after-school-tutoring programs will also be served in the program, and teachers will be able to utilize the program results to help remediate identified weaknesses and improve skills in the classroom.

Brunswick County

The Brunswick County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Brunswick County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Buchanan County

The Buchanan County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Buchanan County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Buckingham County

The Preparation for Post-Secondary Experiences (PPSE) Project partners Buckingham County Public Schools, parents, the business community and post-secondary educational institutions. The major goal of PPSE is to provide students with real-life work experiences and the academic and vocational backgrounds that support their career aspirations. The students served through this program are grades 9 through 12, and specific objectives are outlined at each grade level to accomplish the goals of PPSE. Activities include: establishing career portfolios; participating in career shadowing; and participating in a mentorship program.

Buena Vista City

The Buena Vista City Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Buena Vista City Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Campbell County

Campbell County Schools have developed *Summer Academies* to serve students in rising grades 4 through 8 who will not be attending remedial or gifted programs in the summer. Science, mathematics, reading, writing and technology SOL's will be integrated into this activity-based curriculum and will include exposure to career opportunities in science and technology. A low pupil-teacher ratio will permit teachers to individualize instruction with efforts concentrated on students' identified areas of need. An anticipated outcome, in addition to increasing student achievement on the SOL's, is to promote interest in technology, science and the fine arts. Another goal of the academy is to provide for professional development of teachers new to Campbell County.

Caroline County

Caroline County Public Schools have partnered with local businesses and parents to develop the *Students and Parents Accelerating Math Achievement* program to serve students who have fallen behind in academics. Combining customized math software with teacher-directed instruction, six Cortez Math Labs have been installed in county schools: one at the elementary level; three at the middle school; and two at the high school, primarily serving ninth graders. Each student spends one hour daily in the lab with a teacher and a lab administrator. The program supplements students' regular classes and strives to bring the student up to grade level achievement within three years or less and, after achieving grade level, maintain or exceed this level of achievement.

Carroll County

Carroll County Public Schools and Virginia Tech have developed "Growing an Education" -- an initiative to implement agricultural research projects, the results of which will be shared with the local community. Four agriculturally-based learning modules have been developed for interested students in grades 9 through 12. The research projects include: a commercial vegetable variety trial which looks for disease and insect resistant varieties of plants as alternative crops to the anticipated loss of tobacco; a cattle grazing efficiency study seeking to increase growth rates; and a forestry study which includes studying new species of trees that are self re-generating. Working with research scientists outside of school hours, the students are involved in data collection, project designs, project evaluations, writing research reports, public speaking, conducting market surveys and calculating growth rates/yields.

Charles City County

The Charles City Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Charles City Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts

Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Charlottesville City

Charlottesville City Schools, Piedmont Virginia Community College, and the Charlottesville Area School/Business Alliance have collaborated to develop a talent development program for students in grades 5 through 8. Targeting a group of up to fifty students, the program offers educational experiences and support systems on an ongoing basis. Students meet after-school weekly to improve their academic performance, learn important workplace skills and explore an array of career options. Local business and community members contribute by speaking to students about careers options and inviting students into the workplace. Students also explore post-secondary educational opportunities through workshops and on-site visits to institutions of higher learning.

Clarke County

The Clarke County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Clarke County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Colonial Heights City

The Colonial Heights City Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Colonial Heights City Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Covington City

The Covington City Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Covington City Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Craig County

The Craig County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Craig County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental

involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstiltskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Cumberland County

The Cumberland County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Cumberland County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstiltskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Danville City

Danville Public Schools has developed a *High Schools That Work* program for 9th and 10th grade students in the city's high school. The goals of this program are to: integrate academic and work preparation programs; encourage students to identify and utilize career interests; assist 9th grade students in making a successful transition to high school; provide tutoring; and refine career and educational goals through counseling, job shadowing, mentoring and career exploration. Teachers and community volunteers will provide after-school tutoring in the core academic areas for two hours per week in small group settings with one tutor per five students. A career exploration center will be established at the high school with the mission of encouraging each student to establish a connection with the community and the school and envision a bright future.

Department of Correctional Education

The Department of Correctional Education has developed the *Leader Education Achievement Program* (LEAP) designed to stress education as a part of a successful life and call for the highest achievement from all participants. LEAP strives to promote student internships and other after-school work or mentoring experiences that support academic achievement and career exploration, increase parental involvement, and facilitate access to post-secondary education or training opportunities. The program also includes student publication of a quarterly newsletter and an annual Open House for parents.

Dickenson County

The Dickenson County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Dickenson County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Dinwiddie County

The Dinwiddie County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Dinwiddie County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Falls Church City

The Falls Church School-to-Work Initiative will enhance existing partnerships with the Business in Education Partnership Council, the Greater Falls Church Chamber of Commerce, and Virginia Tech. This initiative will provide the sharing of a distance-learning technology facility with Virginia Tech, after-school student internships, scholarships for post-secondary education and training for low-income students, and teacher/business workplace exchanges. Career education through job shadowing, career fairs, entrepreneurial learning, and career counseling is also provided.

Floyd County

The Floyd County Business/Education and Community Partnership Program has developed a *Middle School Alternative Education Program* for at-risk students in grades 5 through 7. The program identifies goals and objectives for each student providing strategies and methods for improving academic achievement and social and behavioral skills. These will be achieved through the development of alternative education plans and social and psychological counseling for students and parents. To further meet these goals, each student will be assigned a mentor from business, community, high school and college partners for activities such as job shadowing and community service projects. The plan also includes career awareness activities through the use of computer interactive software and various websites, and scholarships to further academic and/or vocational goals.

Fluvanna County

Fluvanna County Public Schools has teamed with Piedmont Virginia Community College and the Charlottesville Area School-Business Alliance to develop the *Career Fast Forward* program. This comprehensive program of activities targets 300 at-risk students in grades 7 through 12 and is designed to immerse these students in the consideration of career options while reinforcing academics and helping students prepare for secondary programs, post-secondary programs and careers. Activities include college visitations, job shadowing, mentorship activities, career fairs, and parent/student career forums. The latter phase of the program will give students varying degrees of first-hand experiences in the workplace.

Franklin City

Franklin City Public Schools has developed *Project Future Links*, which focuses on improved academic instruction and opportunities for at-risk students in the alternative education program. This program provides mastery-based, interactive on-line lessons as a personal tutor for students in grades 6-12 who are enrolled in the alternative education program and who need help remaining in and graduating from school. The mission is to focus on individual student needs for fundamental reading, writing, and math skills, as well as career development, life skills, and

GED preparation, when needed. *Project Future Links* will provide twelve licensed interactive computer stations with NovaNet curriculum software that can be accessed up to 24 hours per day. The program also includes activities to increase parental involvement and a mentorship program to encourage academic achievement and provide career exploration opportunities for the students.

Frederick County

The *Frederick County School-To-Work 2000 Program* is a cooperative educational partnership between Frederick County Public Schools, local governmental agencies, private businesses and institutions of higher education. The program, serving students in grades 6-12, focuses on vocational programming and career flexibility. A full-time vocational resource teacher has been enlisted to develop innovative after-school internship programs that offer paid and unpaid work experience in auto servicing, cabinetry, carpentry, computer hardware systems technology, CISCO networking and printing technology. Another component of the program has strengthened the vocational programming by developing innovative school-based and work-based projects, including a Microcomputer Integrated Systems Technology Program.

Fredericksburg City

Fredericksburg City Public Schools and Employment Resources Incorporated (ERI), have developed the *Career Prep* program for at-risk students attending the Fredericksburg City Alternative School. *Career Prep* provides students with relevant activities and experiences designed to increase student achievement while integrating on-campus training and work-based learning. Activities include: vocational assessment; classroom career exploration; development of soft/transferable skills; independent living skills training; hands-on-career exploration; job skills training; identification of post-secondary training sites; and job placement assistance.

Galax City

The Partnership to Improve Student Achievement is a collaborative partnership between Galax City Public Schools, local business partners, parents and students. It is designed to improve academic achievement through the use of interactive and engaging technology. The partnership serves one group of transitional students between kindergarten and first grade using the *Lightspan Achieve Now* program to bridge the gap between home and school. Other students are also served in a computer lab setting using *Lightspan* technology. The *Lightspan Achieve Now* program is a K-6 instructional program that utilizes interactive computer technology to improve student learning in math and language arts. Schools purchase the program, including PlayStation® game consoles that are loaned to families to promote family involvement in learning. This program supports standards-based curriculum such as Virginia's Standards of Learning.

Grayson County

Grayson County Public Schools has developed a partnership between parents, students, teachers and local businesses to design the “Flat Ridge Kids-Parents Techno Teams” program for Flat Ridge Elementary School. This program will serve grades K-3 the first year, adding additional grades in years two and three, and will use the *Lightspan Achieve Now* Program to improve academic achievement in language arts and mathematics. Parent/kid techno teamwork in the home is coordinated with classroom work, and parent/family workshops will ensure an innovative and unique learning experience for each student.

Greene County

Greene County Public Schools has developed the “Partnership to Create Curious, Confident Learners” with local business partners, parents and students. This program is designed to impart an early love of learning and improve academic achievement through the use of interactive, engaging technology that bridges the distance between school and home. This program will serve approximately 36 four-year-olds enrolled in the Greene County Preschool Program. Teachers will use the *Lightspan Achieve Now* Program to introduce and reinforce classroom instruction in reading/language arts and math. Students will receive a 32-bit CD-ROM drive to connect to a television for use at home.

Greenville County

A partnership between Greenville County Schools and the Boys and Girls Club of Emporia/Greenville County has established the *Greenville County School SOL Complementary Program*. This program is designed to serve approximately 400 members of the Boys and Girls Club (ages 7 through 18) for four hours daily, five days a week. Established programs, such as *Homework Help* and *Power Hour* (a remediation program), have been supplemented and the computer lab has been expanded with the purchase of additional software and an Internet connection. New programs include tutorial programs for individuals and group activities such as spelling bees, debates and field trips to historic sites. The Club is open until 7:00 p.m., allowing parents to attend monthly group meetings and workshops.

Harrisonburg City

Harrisonburg City Public Schools has developed *Project Achieve* for at-risk 9th grade students in Harrisonburg High School. Approximately 45 students will voluntarily participate in the program and receive individual instruction focusing on reading and writing deficiencies, as well as daily access to computers for writing and development of other language arts skills. The students will attend small classes in the core subjects while each class is enhanced by being closely coordinated with the other core subjects. A team teaching approach will be implemented utilizing a teacher, an ESL teacher, and a reading specialist or LD teacher for each course. Each

subsequent year will build on the previous year while adding programs in career awareness, job shadowing and mentoring with the help of local business representatives.

Henrico County

The Henrico County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Henrico County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestiltskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Hopewell City

Hopewell City Public Schools has partnered with John Tyler Community College, The National Institute for Metal Working Skills and the Automotive Technology Apprenticeship Steering Committee to provide school-based and work-based learning opportunities for students (grades 10 through 12) enrolled in the *Automotive Technology and Precision Machine Technology Pre-Apprenticeship Program*. The partnership will expand the existing program and improve academic achievement and technical training skills by combining academic course work with on-the-job training over a three-year period. Students will participate in dual enrollment courses at John Tyler Community College that allow them to gain college credit while meeting high school course requirements and participating in hands-on experience while gaining certification.

Isle of Wight County

The Isle of Wight County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Isle of Wight County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional

standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstiltskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

King and Queen County

The King and Queen County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving King and Queen County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstiltskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

King George County

The King George County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving King George County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstiltskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

King William County

The King William County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving King William County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Lee County

The Lee County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Lee County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Lexington City

Lexington City Schools, supported by the Chamber of Commerce and local foundations, has developed programs designed to serve at-risk students in the elementary and middle schools. For instance, schools have partnered with the Jordan House Foundation to develop a program to allow students to work and study with resident artists (performing and fine arts) after-school and on weekends. The American Association of University Women Educational Foundation and Lexington City Schools have designed a program in which creative artists work with students to produce multi-media presentations about their lives and families. Another component of this

partnership will address career exploration by conducting a mock “Job Fair” using local and retired business people to introduce students to interviewing skills and career exploration. The unique blend of community artists, business people, retirees and professional educators will help these students to achieve their full potential through creative and academic projects.

Loudoun County

Loudoun County Public Schools, in collaboration with the Loudoun School/Business Partnership Executive Council, has developed a comprehensive assessment, intervention and evaluation program for at-risk middle school students. This program is designed to help students who have been suspended transition successfully back into school by assessing each student and developing a comprehensive instructional plan. Activities of this plan include: self-paced academic instruction via computer-based learning modules complemented by one-on-one teacher guidance and coaching; volunteer/shadowing/mentoring opportunities with local business partners; individual and group counseling; parent/child learning activities; and social and life skills learning modules focused on effective functioning in the workplace. At every step of the program, teachers and counselors will involve parents in developing and fine-tuning their child’s plan.

Louisa County

Louisa County Public Schools has developed a *Principles of Technology* sequence of courses at Louisa County High School. Students in this program will apply physics and mathematics concepts through a unified system approach to develop a broad knowledge base of the principles underlying modern technical systems. The “principles and systems” approach to studying these technical principles provides a foundation for further education and career flexibility as technology and technical systems advance. The integration modules provide students with technologically advanced information and are built around the national standards in math and science, as well as Virginia’s Standards of Learning.

Lunenburg County

Project SHARE, bridging School and Home using Accelerated Resources for Enrichment, is a collaborative partnership between Lunenburg County Public Schools, local business partners, parents and students designed to improve academic achievement through the use of interactive technology. This partnership will serve a group of 2nd grade students in remedial programs at Victoria Elementary and Kenbridge Elementary Schools. Teachers will use the *Lightspan Achieve Now* program to introduce and reinforce classroom instruction while students will receive the program to use at home with their families. Local business partners will encourage parents to attend three family involvement workshops, provide materials for the workshops, and donate incentives to encourage parental involvement.

Madison County

A partnership between the Culpeper Memorial Hospital Children's Center of Madison and Madison County Public Schools will provide necessary academic preparation for kindergarten students and an additional vocational/work-based learning program for high school students. One of the goals of this partnership is to have students enter kindergarten ready to learn by developing and implementing an academic-oriented curriculum in literacy and mathematics for four-year olds through the establishment of an abbreviated-day, school-based program at Madison primary School. The partnership will also establish an internship program for Madison County High School students to work as assistants in the school-based program, Head Start, and the Children's Center during the school day while receiving vocational credit.

Manassas City

The Manassas City Public Schools Partnership has a three-pronged approach to enhance student motivation and academic achievement, increase work-related opportunities, and provide career exploration and planning for area students. The first prong is a full-time coordinator within Osbourn High School who will act as liaison between the school and business community to develop and implement work-based learning opportunities for students. The coordinator will also schedule activities such as work study, an internship program, a shadowing program and an apprenticeship program. The second program, S.O.A.R. (Success, Opportunity, Action, Results), will help low-achieving students through a team effort among students, teachers, administration and parents. The third program is the development of a comprehensive career-based guidance program for grades K-12. Participating students will be exposed to a sequential career development program that emphasizes changing technologies, the economic outlook, and expectations from employers that will enable them to succeed in the future workplace.

Mecklenburg County

Mecklenburg County Public Schools, in cooperation with local businesses and parents, has developed a program to assist the schools with after-school apprentice programs, vocational and technical programs, mentoring and tutoring. Strong emphasis is being placed on reading, math, technology, and science for K-12 students. The program will provide additional curriculum materials to classrooms through teacher awards, including Edutest software for each school and Integrated Learning Software. A full-time program coordinator will seek community support of businesses, organizations and parents in implementing adopt-a-school programs, career days, mentoring, tutoring, field trips and scholarships for students based on improvements in grades and attendance.

Montgomery County

Montgomery County Public Schools is expanding the *Educational Partnerships Program* by developing two new secondary program initiatives in Graphic Arts and Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration. The Graphic Arts Program will serve students at Blacksburg High School who are enrolled in Advanced Art Two and will provide valuable technology-based training. Several local businesses and the Art and Architecture Departments of Virginia Tech will assist in the start-up and implementation of this program. The Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Program will be housed at Eastern Montgomery High School and will serve approximately 20 students in grades 10-11 while being open to students from other schools. Cundiff Heating and Air Conditioning will act in an advisory capacity to teachers and provide mentoring, job shadowing, and summer employment opportunities for students.

Nelson County

The Nelson County Public Schools Community Partnership offers a variety of career preparation experiences for high school students, focusing upon academics and career preparation and maintaining parental involvement and business and community support. Ninth grade students participate in the Summer Career Exploration Camp at Piedmont Virginia Community College. An after-school-reading project entitled "Career Book Club" encourages students to research diverse career paths and vocations. An intergenerational mentoring opportunity enables students to learn from senior citizens. Parents also play an integral role in the Nelson County Public Schools Community Partnership by partnering with the school to monitor student progress in meeting academic and career goals.

New Kent County

Through partnership with the Virginia Cooperative Extension, the New Kent Office on Youth, parents, ministers and retired volunteers, New Kent County Public Schools has developed *A Community That Cares* to address the special needs of students who have been suspended from school for 5 to 10 days. This program serves students from ages 5 through 17 and offers small group tutoring and a teaching program to keep the students current in their schoolwork while on short-term suspension. Students who have attended the program and have not shown improvement will attend a two-week intensive summer program. This program will give students an opportunity to "jump-start" the new school year by emphasizing development of critical thinking skills, fine-tuning study habits and conflict resolution. Assistance is also offered to the parents of these students through community resources and special training sessions.

Norfolk City

Norfolk Public Schools, with local businesses and community organizations, has developed *Partnerships for Achieving and Learning* -- a project for students (K-12), teachers, and parents

with a mission of becoming a world-class system by advancing individual and organizational excellence supported by a community of learners. The partnership activities include: development and implementation of a Career Transition Resource lab for students and adults; professional development activities for teachers which include course work, workshops and attendance at state and national conferences to encourage greater student achievement; Parent Involvement Nights and workshops in mathematics, social studies/history, science and language arts; and a three-week summer math-science-technology camp for elementary, middle and high school students.

Northampton County

Northampton County Schools, in partnership with retired educators, school board members, businesspersons, local post-secondary personnel and parents, has developed a program to serve Northampton High School. This program has three parts and includes the expansion of an *After School Tutorial Program* that provides direct instruction in four core content areas and averages more than 75 students per day. It includes an important parent involvement component providing grade level meetings for students and their parents covering graduation requirements, SOL preparation and course offerings in preparation for college and/or career goals. The program also incorporates a career planning initiative that enables 9th grade students, along with their parents, to work directly with a school counselor to map out a four year course of study in a career area or in anticipation of college. Local businesses provide the valuable link to business and industry by supporting vocational programs for students and providing leave for parents who need to attend grade level meetings and counseling sessions.

Norton City

Norton City Public Schools, in partnership with the business community and the local Appalachian Regional Community Head Start program, has developed a program to improve academic skills for students by the completion of grade 2 of primary school. The major activity of this local partnership will be a Preschool Class at Norton Elementary School for the 2000-2001 school year. Using the Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence as the curriculum, this program will provide these students with a strong foundation in academics. Parents will be involved through participation in planning meetings and volunteering, and will be given children's literature to encourage reading at home.

Page County

Page County Public Schools has developed a program for students using *Lightspan Achieve Now* technology to improve student achievement on the SOL's. While achieving success with this program in Preschool and Kindergarten classrooms, Page County is expanding its use of *Lightspan* to include 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. Teachers reinforce classroom instruction after school and at home through the use of customized *Lightspan* programs that utilize an inexpensive 32-bit

CD-ROM drive that connects to any television set. Local community partners participate by encouraging parents to attend workshops, providing materials for the workshops and donating incentives to encourage parent involvement.

Patrick County

The Patrick County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Patrick County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Pittsylvania County

The Pittsylvania County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Pittsylvania County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Prince Edward County

The Prince Edward County Middle School *School-Within-A-School* program is designed to provide a supportive and challenging learning environment for 30 at-risk eighth graders through intense academic instruction, vocational preparation, continuous involvement of parents and strong business support. Major activities of the program include: restructuring the daily schedule for the group to include block scheduling of the core subjects with smaller classes and two teachers; technical programs in the high-interest areas of computer applications and electronics; and a continuous relationship with a mentor from the local business community for each student.

Prince George County

Prince George County Public Schools, in partnership with the business community, will expand alternative education in the county by adding an Internet-based distance curriculum that is designed to meet the educational needs of students in grades 6 through 12 at all levels of ability. Using the *NOVEL* (New Options: Very Effective Learning) system, students will be assessed in reading, grammar and math to determine if remedial instruction is needed, and a prescriptive curriculum tailored to each student's needs will be developed. This unique remedial system is based on a learning strategy that provides automatic branching to additional instruction and feedback as needed. This program seeks to increase student achievement of the SOLs through *NOVEL*, increase the level of parental involvement through workshops and activities with their children, and provide access to post-secondary education or training.

Prince William County

Prince William County Schools has partnered with businesses, governmental agencies, faith-based and community organizations, post-secondary educational institutions and parents to develop the *Connecting Education and the Community* program to improve student performance and work-force readiness for the K-12 Prince William County school population. The major program activities include: a web-site for students, teachers and parents devoted to career development; "Work-Force of the Future" conferences; parent outreach; job shadowing and internships; tutoring and mentoring programs; Out-of-School Youth Scholarships; the Teacher Work-Place Academy; and summer camps offering SOL remedial instruction.

Radford City

Breakthrough to Literacy: Literacy Development for Emergent Readers, a program administered by the Radford City Public Schools, will target kindergarten and transitional first grade students by providing reading skills instruction including phonological awareness and beginning sounds, alphabet knowledge and letter sounds. *Breakthrough to Literacy* is an interactive software

program used to supplement traditional kindergarten reading curricula. It automatically adjusts to each student's level of language development and is organized around thematic units that are easily incorporated into daily classroom activities. The program also supports the involvement of parents as stories are re-read at home to reinforce lessons learned at school.

Rappahannock County

The Rappahannock County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Rappahannock County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Roanoke City

Roanoke City Public Schools has partnered with representatives from colleges and universities, local businesses, parents, and commerce and employment-related agencies to develop and implement the *Blue Ridge Technical Academy*. The Academy will be the first technical charter school in Virginia and will serve 200 youth in the region. Programs will include: the Intensive Academic Assistance Program; Industrial Survey Courses; Industrial-Based Training and Internships (focusing on manufacturing technology, computer science and electronics, health and medical services, optics, and consumer services); and Individual Student Alternative Education Plan Component for GED Support.

Rockbridge County

Rockbridge County Public Schools, community organizations and local businesses have collaborated to develop *Rockbridge Student Achievement*. This program was developed to achieve two goals: offer remedial training for academically at-risk students in grades K-5; and improve the Electronics and Robotics Labs in Rockbridge County High School by upgrading and expanding the technology and teaching staff. The partnership has worked with the Engineering Department at Virginia Military Institute and Dabney S. Lancaster Community College to

identify the needs of present and future employers and to revise the technology curriculum. In addition to technological training, the students will also be offered hands-on work experiences.

Rockingham County

Rockingham County Public Schools and the Partners for Student Success (formed in 1998 to promote the success of all students) have expanded their partnership to develop and implement a program devoted to improvement in academic achievement and vocational and technical education. The major activities include extended after-school learning opportunities (including a two-way video distance learning laboratory) and the refinement of career development activities through after-school and work-based mentoring opportunities. The production of informative videos (aired on the public access channel) and brochures geared towards parents and students, guidance department presentations, and civic group presentations are aimed at increasing parental involvement.

Russell County

Russell County Schools has developed a 20-day summer school program for targeted students in grades 1 through 9. Major activities of the program include: instruction in reading, writing and math; field trips to businesses; business representative visits to the schools to present information about the business and careers; required parental participation in at least two activities during the summer school program; and research projects in which each student selects a career and uses computer technology to write a paper. Students and parents will attend follow-up sessions with business partners twice during the school year to determine the impact of the program. Business and industry partners have committed their time and resources during the summer school program and follow-up sessions during the school year to make this program a valuable experience for the students.

Salem City

The Salem City Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Salem City Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science

Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Shenandoah County

The Shenandoah County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Shenandoah County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Southampton County

The Southampton County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Southampton County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumpelstilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Spotsylvania County

Spotsylvania County Schools has joined with area businesses, nonprofit organizations, post-secondary institutions and parents to develop a program that will provide middle and high school

students with strong academic and workplace skills, career exploration and workplace experiences. Two School-To-Work Specialists will be hired to update vocational curriculum to reflect alignment with Virginia's Standards of Learning and business and industry skills needed to enter the workforce. One specialist will work directly in the areas of business, marketing, and work and family studies, and the other will work with agricultural, health, technology, and trade and industry. To facilitate student access to post-secondary education or training opportunities the program will include: hosting an open house for parents and students to meet representatives of post-secondary institutions; and inviting post-secondary institutions to send representatives to the high schools and vocational center to meet students and discuss particular occupations.

Staunton City

The Staunton City Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Staunton City Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Suffolk

Suffolk Public Schools, with the Pruden Center for Industry and Technology, has developed the Work Awareness and Transition (WAT) Program to assist in transitioning selected high-risk youth from school to a vocational program, and then on to work. The program will provide a planned and systematic process for improving work performance and work-related behaviors, and will offer mock "work experiences" to teach productivity and work ethics. Following completion of the WAT program and prior to the student's entrance into a vocational program, a case manager will work with a vocational instructor to design a program for the student. The case manager will closely follow the student through the vocational program to ensure an effective transition from school to work.

Surry County

The *Partners for Smarter Students* program is a collaborative partnership between Surry School District, local business partners, parents, and students designed to improve academic achievement through the use of the *Lightspan Achieve Now* program that bridges the gap between school and home. This program will serve approximately 150 students in grades K through 4 in a summer school remedial program and will be used throughout the school year during the after-school *SOAR Program*. The program will provide additional time for students to focus on a reading and math curriculum after school and will bring educational technology into the home, with an accelerated curriculum that allows for individual, self-paced improvement. Students will build the skills they need and involve parents in the learning process.

Sussex County

The Sussex County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Sussex County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestiltskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Tazewell

Tazewell County Public Schools has developed the *Raising Individual Student Efforts* (RISE) program to serve targeted elementary, middle and high school students. The goals of RISE are: to expand the existing tutorial program and improve academic achievement and skill development in support of the SOLs; to improve parental involvement; and to facilitate access to post-secondary education or training opportunities. Tazewell County Schools will employ teachers, high school students and college students to provide tutoring. Local business partners will conduct informal workshops for teachers, parents and students on the skills needed for higher education and/or employment. During the second and third year of the program, local business partners will provide matching scholarships for students to use at a community college.

Washington County

The Washington County Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving Washington County Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Waynesboro County

Waynesboro Public Schools, in partnership with the Valley Alliance for Education, has developed a program for mentoring and internships at the high school. The goals of this program are to increase student achievement, promote student internship and mentoring opportunities that support academic achievement and career exploration, and to increase the parental involvement. This program will also plan and implement a locally operated GED preparation program for students age 16 and above who have dropped out of school and are seeking a GED.

West Point

The West Point Instructional Partnership has established a new and innovative educational collaboration involving West Point Public Schools, Theatre IV, Read Aloud Virginia, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Virginia Aviation Museum, the Virginia Historical Society, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Youth Matters, and the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Centers and Schools. Led by Theatre IV, a program has been developed for elementary, middle and high school students to increase student achievement in English, History and Science through instructional theatrical productions in assembly format, and also to increase parental involvement through Parent Guides that encourage at-home review of the instructional standards in each production. Among the theatrical productions are: *Rumplestilskin* (co-produced with Read Aloud Virginia); *The Mystery of Ancient Egypt* (co-produced with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); *The Wonderful World of Simple Machines* (co-produced with the Science Museum of Virginia); *Amelia Earhart* (co-produced with the Virginia Aviation Museum and the Science Museum of Virginia); and *Arthur Ashe: Champion of Honor* (co-produced with the Virginia Historical Society).

Winchester

Creating a Partnership to Bridge School and Home is a collaborative partnership between Winchester School District, local businesses, parents and students designed to improve academic achievement through the use of interactive technology. This program will serve a group of 3rd through 5th grade students in a summer school remedial program and then will be used in two classrooms throughout the school year. Teachers will use the *Lightspan Achieve Now* program to introduce and reinforce classroom instruction while students will be provided with *Lightspan*, along with a 32-bit CD-ROM drive that connects to a television, for use at home. Students and their families will also participate in several Family Involvement Workshops sponsored by local businesses.

Wise County

The *Partnership for Higher Achievement* is a collaborative effort between Wise County Public Schools, local business partners, parents and students designed to improve academic achievement through the use of interactive technology that embraces a strong home-school connection. This partnership will serve approximately 115 fifth grade students at Coeburn Middle School during year one, expanding in year two to include fourth grade students. Teachers will use *Lightspan Achieve Now*, a technological program highly aligned to the SOL's, to introduce and reinforce classroom instruction. Students will receive the program, along with an inexpensive 32-bit CD-ROM drive that connects to any television, to use at home. Families will also be required to participate in Family Involvement Workshops each year.

Wythe County

Project *WytheSPAN* (Wythe Students and Parents Achieving Now) is a partnership between Wythe County Public Schools, local business partners, parents and students using the *Lightspan Achieve Now* program to serve a group of 5th grade students at each elementary school in the county. Teachers will use *Lightspan*, a comprehensive and interactive curriculum with built-in multilevel challenges, to support instructional programs in reading and math during classroom time, after-school programs and summer remedial programs. Students and their families will participate in several family involvement workshops and will receive the *Lightspan* program for use at home, along with an inexpensive 32-bit CD-ROM drive that connects to a television.

Local Pilot Initiative Grants 2000 Program Summaries

Alexandria Seaport Foundation, *Bringing Boat Building to Virginia*

Seeking to address issues for Alexandria youth including poverty, social decay, crime, substance abuse, social isolation, gang activity and lack of adequate housing, the Alexandria Seaport Foundation (established in 1983) began in 1992 to effectively reach out into the community through apprenticeships for at-risk youth. The Foundation's Craddock Boat Building School enables youths referred through schools and the court system to work for extended periods of time. Students have already built over 75 boats since the school's opening. Through these grant funds the program will be expanded by refining existing community and apprentice boat building programs, and adapting computer based boat-building materials for publication. The Practical Math Workshop for elementary school children will be refined, and a fund pool of investors who commit money and resources over a 5-year period to develop new programs throughout the state will be developed. Partners included in this program include Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, WoodenBoat Magazine, and BOAT/US.

Employment Resources, Inc., *Project Prepare*

Project Prepare targets students with disabilities who attend King George County Public Schools offering relevant activities and experiences that integrate school-based and work-based learning. Enabling students to understand how academic subjects relate to work, school-based learning incorporates vocational assessment, career exploration and counseling, communication and team building skills, as well as critical thinking. Work-based learning provides actual hands-on experience in a work setting that includes working in teams, problem solving, and understanding employer expectations through workplace mentoring. Attempting to meet the transition needs, a six-week Career Education Class for middle school students and Career Pathways Program targeting high school prepare students for and give access to a satisfying and financially rewarding career. Partnering organizations include the King George Chamber of Commerce, Bay Consortium Private Industry Council and the King George Parent Resource Center.

Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce, *Economics for Educators*

Sponsored by the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation, this program seeks to provide middle and high school instructors with additional methodologies to address the increasingly technical workplace, while focusing on expertise in the field of economics. Economics for Educators will incorporate a special series of in-depth training sessions in economics for 30 teachers in four sessions, applying these teaching skills to

the classroom. Participants will represent five counties: Caroline, Fredericksburg, King George, Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties.

Giles County Partnership for Excellence Foundation, *Vocational/Technical Education Reform Project*

The Giles County Partnership for Excellence is partnering with area businesses to revise the traditional trade curriculum at the Giles County Technology Center by emphasizing increased academic excellence for high school students that will equip them to meet the needs of the business/industry community. At-risk students in grades 10-12 will be provided with skills and employment opportunities that include internships and apprenticeships. Scholarships for post-secondary education are offered to at-risk students who stay in school and graduate.

Hampton Roads Mexican-American Club, *Esperanza*

Begun originally as a social club for Mexican-American families in the Hampton Roads area, this award-winning organization expanded in 1997 to aid the growing Hispanic community in the areas of education, health, immigration, criminal justice, juvenile and gang violence prevention. This grant will allow Esperanza to expand their K-12 outreach to provide youth with tutoring, mentoring, summer remediation, early intervention reading and behavioral risk avoidance programming.

In-Agape Family Life and Education Center, *Stay Up While You're Out*

The In-Agape Family Life and Education Center received a grant for summer remediation initiatives with academic and work-based learning components, as well as comprehensive mentoring, tutoring, and behavioral risk avoidance. The program focuses on students in short-term and long-term suspension including juveniles referred by the 7th and 8th Juvenile Courts. Other partners include Hampton University, the Hampton and Newport Community Services Board and local businesses.

Lancaster County Public Schools, *SOL Booster Program*

Recognizing the mutual responsibility of students, family, community, and school personnel for student performance, the Lancaster County Public School system will provide a caring environment and challenging educational program to aid students. The goal is to increase the number of 9th grade students passing the SOL Test during the 2000-2001 school year. This will be accomplished through summer math and reading remediation for at-risk ninth graders, parenting and technology workshops, and partnerships built with business and industry to help students enrolled in the SOL Booster Program. Businesses and industry will hold on-site seminars with students to address issues of work ethics, educational requirements for

employment, appropriate on the job attitude and dress, as well as stressing the importance of school attendance.

Making a Difference Foundation, *Right Choices for Youth Coalition*

Through the Right Choices for Youth Coalition, the Making a Difference Foundation will work in concert with community partners across Virginia to expand its outreach to students through SOL tutoring, minority computer literacy, risk behavior avoidance, standardized test preparation, internship opportunities, arts, culture, and recreation. The Making A Difference Foundation partners with numerous colleges and more than 100 businesses, including the Navy Federal Credit Union, Katsias Management, Avis Rent-a-Car, Newport News Apprenticeship School and Bank of America.

New Kent Community Development Corporation, *A Community That Cares*

Sponsored by The New Kent Community Development Corporation, an affiliate of the Historic Second Liberty Baptist Church, A Community that Cares enables suspended students in kindergarten through 12th grade to continue school work in a highly structured and supervised setting. Students receive individual attention aimed at helping them develop responsible and respectable behavior patterns. The program also provides other community resources to these children and their parents while involving the business community in career presentations and volunteering.

Richmond Summer Institute, *Carver Promise*

A collaborative effort of three non-profit organizations -- YMCA, Carver Promise and Partnership for the Future -- has created the Richmond Summer Institute program to provide basic training for youth employment across the Richmond metropolitan area. Serving approximately 100 students in grades 9 through 12 during the summer of 2000 with an additional 100 in 2001, students spend one week in intensive training to prepare them with basic skills needed to succeed in summer internships with local corporations. Skill areas taught include effective communication, conflict management, best practices for quality work, and appropriate response to ethical issues in the workplace. Sixty Richmond area businesses provide jobs and mentoring opportunities to students who graduate from programs offered by the Richmond Summer Institute.

VCU School of Engineering/NASA Langley, *FIRST Robotics Competition*

VCU School of Engineering/NASA Langley will sponsor middle and high school teams to compete in the first regional competition of the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition, fast becoming the Ultimate Mind Sport of middle and high school students. Selected to participate in teams of five and six, Virginia

students in partnership with engineers from corporations and universities have six intense weeks to conceptualize, design, build and test robots developed as a solution to a problem that is provided by FIRST, as well as a kit of parts. The competition is designed to promote real-world applications and examples of math, science, and technology while also teaching problem solving, critical thinking, and teamwork. Business community partners include NASA Langley Research Center, Xerox, Motorola, Bell Atlantic, General Motors, Johnson & Johnson, Disney, Proctor & Gamble and hundreds of smaller companies.

Wheat Resources, Inc., *SOLIDIFY*

SOLIDIFY (Standards of Learning Instructional Decisions Incorporating Fair Yardsticks) program uses computer-assisted instruction coupled with summer workshops and follow-up sessions to provide teachers and administrators with training concerning the use of data about student performance to improve student instruction and achievement. Lord Botetourt High School and the Madison County School Board are working with private sector educational specialists from Wheat Resources, Inc., to support students and teachers engaged in computer-assisted instructional activities that build understanding of core knowledge areas. School officials will be able to use student performance data to make better choices about using school resources to foster student academic achievement. The project also involves implementation of an e-mail network that connects parents, teachers and school administrators.

2001-02 Local Pilot Initiatives (Round 2) Program Summaries

Regent University, *Entrepreneurship for the Disabled Virginia Internet Project*

Regent University has developed the *Entrepreneurship for the Disabled Virginia Internet Project* (EDVIP) to use the Internet and related technologies as the interactive and instructional platform to assist people with disabilities in exploring self-employment as a career alternative to traditional employment. EDVIP is a fifteen month project comprised of two phases: Phase 1 will include the design, development, construction and testing of the web site with the intent of going on-line in fall 2001; in Phase 2 the web site will become operational for the delivery of self-employment information and one-on-one interaction with disabled individuals and their family members. This project will serve disabled students and their teachers in grades 7 through 12.

Russell County Public Schools, *Placement, Achievement and Transition Opportunities for Students (PLATO)*

Russell County Public Schools has partnered with local businesses and colleges to develop the PLATO program to serve students in grades 9 through 12 and the Alternative School, including students with disabilities, who attend the Career and Technology Center. A placement/transition counselor will provide services including tutors and mentors, after-school student internships, scholarships for post-secondary education and training, career exploration, and computer and technology assistance for students at the Career and Technology Center.

Thomas Nelson Community College, *Tech Trek Counselor and Student Summer Enrichment Program*

The Virginia Peninsula Tech Prep Consortium has developed a summer program, *Tech Trek*, to serve the Newport News students by helping to prepare them for the market-driven workforce demands. One initiative of the program is to assist rising 9th graders in Algebra I and offer rising 10th, 11th and 12th graders an introduction to A+, Cisco and Aviation Maintenance courses. Another initiative of the *Tech Trek* program will serve middle and high school counselors in five school divisions (Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, York and Williamsburg-James City) to improve and increase their knowledge and experience of technical career fields that are currently experiencing significant labor shortages.

Virginia Council on Economic Education, *Classroom Mini-Economy*

The Virginia Council on Economic Education has developed a network of fourteen centers that will offer twenty *Classroom Mini-Economy* workshops to approximately four hundred teachers throughout the state of Virginia. The curriculum will integrate economics into the elementary and middle school environments. The Mini-Economy is a form of economics instruction in which students participate in a classroom economy in order to stimulate real world economic activity.

Virginia Pilot Association, *Park Place School*

The Virginia Pilot Association has partnered with the National Institute for Learning Disabilities, local public schools, churches, private industry and foundations in the Tidewater area to create Park Place School which will provide at-risk elementary students from low-income backgrounds the basic reading, spelling and math skills necessary for academic success. The goal of the school is to provide intense, individualized instruction that will bring students up to grade level in the core subjects of reading, math and spelling, and then return them to public schools armed with the tools to succeed. This is a three-year intervention program for low-income, at-risk students, ages 10 to 12 years, currently enrolled in Norfolk Public Schools.

Wytheville Community College, *Opening the Door of Technology Careers for Southwest Virginia's Future Workforce*

The Manufacturing Technology Center (MTC) at Wytheville Community College will use its state-of-the-art Mobile Learning Unit to provide access to advanced technology training and hands-on career modules to students in 17 counties throughout southwestern Virginia. This program will serve students in grades 6 through 8 and will provide public schools with access to cutting-edge technology, training and career exploration. Over 3,000 students of the under-represented rural Appalachian population will benefit from this 15-month MTC effort. In addition, a minimum of 36 after-school sessions will be conducted for faculty, administrators, counselors and parents.

2002 Local Pilot Initiative Grants (Round 3) Program Summaries

Cooperating Hampton Roads Organizations for Minorities in Engineering, *Portable SOL Technology Lab*

In this joint project developed by the Cooperating Hampton Roads Organizations for Minorities in Engineering (CHROME) and the Department of Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Technology at Old Dominion University (ODU), students will integrate engineering, mathematical and scientific knowledge with technology education. This project will serve elementary and middle school students who are participating in the CHROME clubs. Faculty at ODU will develop the project experiments and resource materials. The experiments will be completed using a portable project laboratory that uses the Lego Learning System.

Gloucester County Public Schools, *Gloucester Victory Academy*

Gloucester Victory Academy (a charter school) will serve approximately 120 at-risk 8th and 9th grade students. It will also serve 30 in-school alternative education program students who are unable to graduate from high school and will be earning a GED. The mission of the project is to enable students at the charter school to learn about the workplace through work-based experiences, including service learning, comprehensive mentoring experiences and after-school work experiences.

In-Agape Family Life & Educational Center, *Stay Up While You Are Out & One More Chance*

The In-Agape Family Life & Education Center has developed a partnership with the Newport News and Hampton School Divisions to serve at-risk students in grades K-12. This program will serve out-of-school youth on short-term suspension (10 days or less), long-term suspension (11 to 180) days and those expelled from school by providing individualized tutoring and mentoring to students, and guidance and support to parents and guardians. The students served will either return to school or earn a GED certification.

Making a Difference Foundation, *Expanded Reaching All Youth (RAY)*

The *Reaching All Youth (RAY)* project was developed by Making A Difference Foundation to serve Virginia youth in three ways. First, students in Southeastern Virginia will receive tutoring, mentoring and early reading intervention. Second, SAT training and college preparation will be encouraged to develop local tutoring and mentoring programs. Third, RAY will help out-of-school youth to earn a GED. No young person asking for help is turned away from RAY.

Martinsville and Henry County Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers, *NSBE Interventions that Work: A Comprehensive Model for Integrating Curriculum*

The Martinsville and Henry County Junior Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers has an enrollment of 84 students, all of whom adhere to strict academic and behavior guidelines. NSBE's primary mission, partnering with Virginia Tech and its Pre-College Initiative program, is to enhance academic, technical and leadership skills in order to maximize success in life. NSBE's vision contends that detrimental socio-economic conditions can be overcome with proper interventions that include: tutoring and mentoring; summer remediation; behavioral risk-avoidance; SOL mastery; and required parental participation.

Marion Senior High School, *Hurricane Central*

Hurricane Central is a program developed by Marion Senior High School, Smyth County Public Schools, to serve students in grades 9-12 who are interested in exploring a career in business. Hurricane Central will create a paradigm shift from the traditional business classroom to a simulated company environment. Students will become "employees" and will be empowered with choices for decision-making that will affect career opportunities and critical thinking skills.

Rockbridge County Public Schools, *Reach for the Stars*

Rockbridge County Public Schools has developed the Reach for the Stars program to improve academic achievement in science for students in grades K-8. A "Star Lab" will be created to provide opportunities for approximately 2,000 students to experience inquiry learning in a non-traditional classroom setting. A key to the mission is increasing parental involvement which will include installing "Curiosity Corners" in the local libraries that have tubs containing SOL – related materials and activities which parents may check out for home use with their children.

Wytheville Community College, *TECH QUEST Academy*

The vision for Tech Quest Academy is to introduce rising ninth grade students through a two-week program to the technology and advanced manufacturing techniques awaiting them when they graduate from high school in 2004 and begin building careers. The Manufacturing Technology Center's Mobile Learning Unit will make preliminary visits to all the school divisions within Wytheville Community College's service region for one full day at each school. These students will be encouraged to apply for the Tech Quest Academy in the summer of 2002. The academy will feature hands-on exposure to various technologies and advanced manufacturing techniques found in the workplace.

2003 Local Pilot Initiatives (Round 4) Program Summaries

Arlington Community Action Program, Inc., Northern Virginia Project Discovery Program: English as a Second Language Partnership

The Arlington Community Action Program has developed three programs to address the needs of the increasing number of immigrant students and parents in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax. The *English as a Second Language (ESL) Program* will assist middle and high-school students by addressing the different levels of language proficiency. Project One will work with middle school students' SOL preparation and high school students' SAT preparation by tutoring in reading, writing and math. Project Two will feature a series of seminars to increase parental involvement by educating parents about their child's education, including middle-school, high school and post-secondary planning. Project Three is a theatre arts program for students and their families. Partnered with *Teatro de la Luna*, students and their families will attend a series of plays and corresponding workshops focusing on celebrating and recognizing other cultures and languages.

Colonial Beach Public Schools, Building a Partnership between School and Home

The *Building a Partnership between School and Home* is a collaborative partnership between Colonial Beach Public Schools, businesses, parents and students. This after-school tutorial program will better prepare students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 7 in the areas of English (reading and writing), math, science and social studies. Through the use of Lightspan's EduTest comprehensive assessment tool, an interactive curriculum for each student will be built with multi-level challenges. There will also be a series of parent workshops that will give parents the tools to incorporate the lessons into the home.

Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization, Columbia Pike Youth Development Project

The Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO), along with its local agency and non-profit partners, serves the Columbia Pike neighborhood of south Arlington, Virginia. This neighborhood is heavily comprised of immigrant and minority populations. The mission of CPRO is to enable the revitalization of the Columbia Pike neighborhoods and community with a special emphasis on business and commercial development. Each of the partner organizations works with middle and high school students in the area. The program will include the Columbia Heights West Teen Photo Project and television and multi-media production classes. The program will also work with students that attend the Arlington Mill Community Center who are

enrolled in the Arlington Mill High School Continuation Program and middle school students in the Teen Connection program.

The Greenbrier Learning Center

The Greenbrier Learning Center (GBLC) is a partnership between the Arlington Community Foundation, Greenbrier Baptist Church and several corporations in Arlington established to provide academic assistance to neighborhood children. This program will increase the scope of learning and academic achievement of at-risk students living in the densely populated and predominantly immigrant communities of the southern section of Arlington County. GBLC will operate three after-school centers for elementary and middle school students. Through homework help, tutoring and regular communication with the children's teachers and parents, GBLC will provide a strong support system for the children.

Headwaters, the Rappahannock County Public Education Foundation, *Headwaters & Rappahannock County High School Student Intern Program*

The mission of the Headwaters & Rappahannock County School Student Intern Program (SIP) is to prepare high school students to maximize their post-high school employment opportunities. This innovative new program will provide local businesses with highly qualified new employees who have the skills, entrepreneurial spirit and understanding to succeed and contribute to the goals of the business. SIP will serve 11th and 12th grade students by providing training and guidance to ensure they graduate on time and succeed in the workplace or proceed to post-secondary education. The program will include internships with local business partners, career coaching, dual enrollment at Lord Fairfax Community College and SOL remediation.

Hispanic Committee of Virginia, *Guiding Hispanic Youth toward Success*

The Hispanic Committee of Virginia (HCV) is a community-based organization whose mission is to enable Hispanic immigrants to more fully participate in and contribute to American society. HCV has developed a program, *Guiding Hispanic Youth toward Success*, to prepare Hispanic youth in Northern Virginia to achieve academic success and higher education or entrepreneurial success as young adults. The "Arroz con Leche" project will offer early intervention reading programs to students in grades K-3 at targeted schools in Fairfax County and South Arlington. The "Alianza Escolar" project will offer tutoring and mentoring to students in grades 4 through 8 at targeted public schools in Fairfax County. The "Career Exploration", "Entrepreneurial Exploration" and "English Tutoring through Literature" projects are after-school programs that target middle school youth, particularly those in the English as a Second Language program.

In-Agape Family Life & Educational Center, *Stay Up While You Are Out Petersburg*

The In-Agape Family Life & Educational Center has expanded the “Stay Up While You Are Out” program by partnering with Petersburg City Public Schools to serve at-risk students in grades K-12. This program addresses the social and academic needs of suspended, expelled and troubled students. The “Stay Up While You Are Out” program will serve out-of-school youth on short-term suspension (10 days or less), long-term suspension (11 to 180) days and those expelled from school by providing individualized tutoring and mentoring to students, and guidance and support to parents and guardians.

Making A Difference Foundation, *Reach All Youth (RAY)*

The *Reaching All Youth (RAY)* project was developed by Making A Difference Foundation to serve Virginia youth in three ways. First, students in Southeastern Virginia will receive tutoring, mentoring and early reading intervention. Second, SAT training and college preparation will be encouraged to develop local tutoring and mentoring programs. Third, RAY will help out-of-school youth to earn a GED. No young person asking for help is turned away from RAY.

2001 Statewide Partnership Grants (Round 1) Program Summaries

Advanced Manufacturing Technology Association, *Industry Applications of Math Standards of Learning*

The mission of *Industry Applications of Math Standards of Learning* is to provide a clear and specific connection between the specific workforce skills required by business and industry and the math skills defined in the Virginia SOL. The student population served will be math students in grades 9 through 12. The program will consist of identifying and researching up to five different national industry skill standards that require high-level math skills and will develop a cross-reference list between the national skill standards and the math SOL. The result will be a set of documented examples that can be used by math teachers, vocational teachers, counselors, students and industry.

Arlington Public Schools, *Computers in the Home*

In February 2000, Hoffman-Boston Elementary School began to place surplus and donated computers to families lacking a home computer and provided Type to Learn software at discounted prices. Due to subsequent articles published in *The Washington Post* regarding this effort, a deluge of donated computers including Power Macs, Pentium II computers and multimedia laptops were provided by many in the community. Arlington Public Schools has since developed *Computers in the Home* to place 75 or more computers in the homes of students in grades 3 through 5 whose families cannot afford to purchase one.

Franklin City Public Schools, *Second Chance*

Administered by the Franklin County Public School system, *Second Chance* assists at-risk students in completing their high school education. This program will train and certify eighteen special education teachers in the Wilson Reading System. These teachers will offer reading instruction to learning disabled or emotionally disturbed students at all grade levels and assist students in obtaining work-based learning experiences.

In-Agape Family Life & Education Center, *Stay Up While You Are Out & One More Chance*

The In-Agape Family Life & Education Center has developed a partnership with the Newport News and Hampton School Divisions to serve at-risk students in grades K-12. This program will serve out-of-school youth on short-term suspension (10 days or less), long-term suspension (11

to 180) days and those expelled from school by providing individualized tutoring and mentoring to students, and guidance and support to parents and guardians.

Liberty University, *Teacher Development*

Liberty University and a public school system have formed a *Teacher Development* partnership to address the critical need to hire and retain highly qualified teachers in Virginia. This program will develop a network of communication and training to link pre-service teachers, mentor teachers in elementary and secondary classrooms, university faculty, parents and local businesses. Teacher Development will train classroom teachers to mentor pre-service teachers during their clinical observations and student teaching. The collaborative mission of the partnership is to establish a proactive program that supports innovative and creative teaching models for pre-service teachers.

Making a Difference Foundation, *Reaching All Youth (RAY)*

The *Reaching All Youth (RAY)* project was developed by Making A Difference Foundation to serve Virginia youth in three ways. First, students in Southeastern Virginia will receive tutoring, mentoring and early reading intervention. Second, SAT training and college preparation will be encouraged to develop local tutoring and mentoring programs. Third, RAY will help out-of-school youth to earn a GED. No young person asking for help is turned away from RAY.

Patrick Henry Community College, *Motorsports & Furniture Technology*

Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) and the Applied Science and Engineering Department (ASED) have developed a new and innovative curriculum to meet the needs of an expanding workforce in the areas of Motorsports Management and Technology, and Furniture Technology. In partnership with local schools and businesses, PHCC will serve students beginning in the tenth grade through completion of a two-year post-secondary education. The ASED will provide these programs in response to labor market needs and integrate academic and technical curricula. PHCC will also work with regional community colleges in an effort to fulfill the mission and vision for expanding the program.

Science Museum of Virginia, *BioExpress in Region 8*

BioExpress is an outreach program administered by the Science Museum of Virginia that takes exciting science curriculum, hands-on exhibits and top-notch museum educators by van into classrooms across Virginia. This program will serve students and teachers in grades 3 through 8 with a particular focus on life sciences. The BioExpress traveling life science program expands and enriches students' classroom experiences with hands-on workshops and interactive museum exhibits. Teachers will choose from one of seven workshops that range in topics such as cells, genetics and body systems.

Virginia Department of Correctional Education, *Intervention Through Distance Education Strategies (IDES of Culpeper)*

The mission of the Department of Correctional Education (DCE) is to provide educational opportunities that enable youth and adults committed to correctional facilities to integrate successfully into the community as contributing, productive and tax-paying citizens. DCE has developed a distance education program to serve the geographical dispersion of the institutions and the large numbers of specially credentialed professional staff. This program will use computer assisted instruction, satellite reception and distribution systems, public broadcast television, closed circuit television systems, post-secondary courses on CD-ROMs and correspondence courses to provide education opportunities for students in grade levels 5 through 12.

VCU School of Engineering, *FIRST LEGO League*

FIRST LEGO® League (FLL) is a partnership between Virginia Commonwealth University and FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) that will sponsor 35 teams of 9-14 year-olds from Virginia's rural and inner-city communities to construct and program a robot. Working under the direction of teachers, parents and professional mentors, teams will use programming software, sensors, motors and gears. This program fosters relationships between education and business and strengthens our Commonwealth as a national leader in technology, education and the production of tomorrow's technologically literate workers.

Wytheville Community College, *Tech Quest: Introducing 9th Grade Students to Technology-Related Careers*

Wytheville Community College (WCC) has partnered with the Manufacturing Technology Center to develop a weeklong "Tech Quest Day Camp" on the WCC campus to expose students and their parents to state-of-the-art technologies found in today's workplace. The Manufacturing Technology Center will provide cutting-edge demonstrations using its Mobil Learning Unit, a traveling technology classroom on wheels, and the program will also include tours of companies using each technology featured during the camp.

2002 Statewide Partnership Grants (Round 2) Program Summaries

Armenian Martyrs Day Committee of Virginia, *Support Information for Standards of Learning*

The Educational and Curriculum Subcommittee of the Armenian Martyrs Day Committee of Virginia will produce age-appropriate and teacher-friendly material to support the addition of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 to the curriculum framework and Virginia Standards of Learning. This program will develop a package comprised of instructional videos, resource guides, curriculum, relevant web sites and a bibliography of available reading material on the Armenian Genocide and human rights violations. These materials will be distributed to 1500 middle and high schools throughout Virginia.

Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA), *Jamestown Rediscovery Statewide Education Program*

The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities will develop an educational program for teachers, students and their communities on new knowledge learned on our nation's earliest beginnings, gained through the APVA's Jamestown Rediscovery archaeological and research initiative, launched in 1995. The vision of the program is to fulfill the needs and interests of teachers and students by updating them on this new knowledge and integrating various subject areas and real evidence, and activating the rediscovery process academically.

Science Museum of Virginia, *Becoming an Argonaut with Jason*

The vision for the project, *Becoming an Argonaut with Jason*, is to bring real science, real opportunity and real learning into classroom instruction. The mission of the project is to excite and engage students in science and technology, and to motivate and provide professional development for teachers through the use of advanced telecommunications. Dr. Robert Ballard, scientist and oceanographer, founded the Jason Project so that, using interactive communications technology, students could accompany him in his explorations and interact with him real-time, even when his exploratory submersible craft is far below the surface of the sea. At the Science Museum of Virginia, students in grades 6-12 will interact with Dr. Ballard and share the excitement of discovery.

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, *ACCESS VIRGINIA: Gear-Up Neighborhood Academies*

The vision of the ACCESS VIRGINIA project is to enable Virginia to better provide those most in need with greater access to higher education. The mission of the ACCESS VIRGINIA project is to provide a series of planned interventions to help student participants become academically prepared, gain awareness of higher education opportunities and learn the various ways that higher education can be financed through Neighborhood Academies established throughout Virginia. These Academies will serve middle school students in 13 low-income school divisions.

Swift Creek Mill Playhouse, *Project Theatre Reach*

Providing cultural arts for children with limited access to the theater experience because of geographic or economic circumstances is an important part of the mission at Swift Creek Mill Playhouse. Project Theatre Reach will provide elementary and middle school students from Southside Virginia with approximately 20,000 complimentary tickets to attend two to three theatre productions at the Swift Creek Mill Theater. Through Project Theatre Reach, Swift Creek Mill Playhouse will introduce students to the theatre arts while providing an alternative medium by which they receive instruction in the Virginia SOLs.

VCU School of Engineering, *FIRST LEGO League*

FIRST LEGO® League (FLL) is a partnership between Virginia Commonwealth University and FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) that will sponsor approximately 40 teams of 9-14 year-olds from Virginia's rural and inner-city communities to construct and program a robot. Working under the direction of teachers, parents and professional mentors, teams will use programming software, sensors, motors and gears to compete in the annual FLL tournament in December 2002. This program fosters relationships between education and business and strengthens our Commonwealth as a national leader in technology, education and the production of tomorrow's technologically literate workers.

Virginia Association of Museums, *Virginia TimeTravelers*

The Virginia TimeTravelers program is a collaboration of Virginia's non-profit and for-profit sectors with the mission of encouraging student learning through the summer and increasing appreciation for Virginia's rich historic and cultural heritage. TimeTravelers serves statewide the student population from preschool to grade 12. These students and their accompanying family members are provided with a "passport" which lists almost 300 participating cultural attractions. Students who have their passport "stamped" by six different museums receive a certificate signed by the Governor. TimeTravelers offers a unique summer learning opportunity for families by offering a stimulating outlet to avoid the "brain-drain" that so often occurs from June to September.

2003 Statewide Partnerships (Round 3) Program Summaries

An Achievable Dream Urban Learning and Leadership Center, *PASS – The Governor’s Urban Learning and Leadership Institutes*

An Achievable Dream Urban Learning and Leadership Center has partnered with the Department of Education to assist with Governor Warner’s Partnership for Achieving Successful Schools (“PASS”) Initiative. The Center will conduct two week-long institutes in the summer of 2003 training principals, administrators and teachers from the 34 PASS priority schools in Richmond, Petersburg and Portsmouth. The Governor’s Urban Learning Institute will address the unique needs of teachers and administrators in an urban setting, such as raising expectations, improving climate and culture, and closing the achievement gap. The Governor’s Urban Leadership Institute will address the specific needs of urban leaders, such as maximizing limited funds, establishing learning environments and creating productive community partnerships.

Hampton City Schools, *PASS – Standards of Learning Assessment Resource (SOLAR)*

Hampton City Schools has partnered with the Virginia Department of Education, post-secondary institutions and Services and Solutions Group, Inc., to implement the Standards of Learning Assessment Resource (SOLAR). The SOLAR project will design an assessment program for use throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia in the PASS Priority schools to identify particular areas of skill/knowledge deficiencies for a student. Identification of these areas of deficiency will assist a teacher in diagnosing and building remediation plans for individual students and groups of students. Nine-week assessment tests in English and mathematics will be designed to allow for statewide collection of data on the progress of students in the identified PASS schools.

Longwood University, *PASS - Math Buddies*

Longwood University has partnered with Governor Warner’s PASS Initiative and the Virginia Department of Education (DOE) to develop “Math Buddies”, a math tutoring program for at-risk third and fifth grade students. Math Buddies is an initiative that will provide effective one-on-one mathematics instructions to students in the PASS Priority Schools. The goal of Math Buddies’ one-on-one volunteer tutoring program is to ensure that students successfully achieve the mathematics Standards of Learning through strong business and community involvement. Longwood University will develop and provide the instructional activities, the assessment materials, the record-keeping forms and two training sessions for the on-site coordinators and volunteer tutors.

Project Discovery of Virginia, Inc.

Project Discovery of Virginia, Inc., has partnered with organizations in 20 communities throughout Virginia to conduct workshops for at-risk middle and high-school students. These programs range from study and test-taking skills to conflict resolution, financial aid and college application processes. A lead coordinator at each community organization gears the workshops toward decreasing drop-out rates among secondary education and guiding students towards a post-secondary education. Project Discovery will also conduct a “College Awareness Week” in partnership with Radford University. This program will expose 400 rising high school seniors to the college experience by living in a dormitory and attending workshops on admissions, financial aid, SAT and ACT preparatory classes, career planning and determining a major. Another partner, KAPLAN K-12 Learning Services, will provide instructor training on SAT content and strategy for high school seniors and SOL skills reviews in Mathematics and English to middle school students.

The Science Museum of Virginia, *JASON XV: Exploring Rainforests in the Isthmus of Panama*

With the success of “Becoming an Argonaut with Jason” and the demand for more teacher training, the Science Museum of Virginia has expanded its program. Teachers will engage in an exciting journey of discovery to explore the Isthmus of Panama region and its tropical rainforests with the scientists of JASON and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. With this grant, the Science Museum of Virginia will train approximately 100 teachers on the use and integration of curriculum units across disciplines. Teachers will also receive technology training on the use of handheld devices connected to probes for conducting scientific investigations, and utilizing web resources, online projects, chat sessions and discussion forums. Students will learn to understand how human technology has influenced the geography, hydrology and biology of Panama and how technology is used to better understand the workings of the world.

University of Virginia, *PASS – Book Buddies Program*

The University of Virginia Book Buddies Program has partnered with Governor Warner’s PASS Initiative to provide early intervention reading instruction to students in the “PASS Priority” schools. Book Buddies is a one-on-one tutorial that serves struggling readers in the first grade. The Book Buddies Coordinator at each participating school writes individualized lesson plans for each child and supervises the tutorials. Tutors in the program are community volunteers. Over the course of the program, children increase their reading accuracy, spelling skills, writing and comprehension.

Virginia Commonwealth University, *Richmond PASS Program*

The VCU America Reads Collaborative (“ARCH”) program is a comprehensive in-school reading initiative. The VCU ARCH Program has partnered with the Office of the Governor to

improve the scope and number of resources available to increase student achievement on SOL testing in 17 "PASS Priority" schools within Richmond Public Schools. The primary focus will be to strengthen school-community partnerships, increase student achievement and increase parental involvement. Each participating school will be assigned a PASS Liaison who will receive, coordinate and distribute volunteer-sponsored assistance and resources for the schools.

Virginia Literacy Foundation, *The PASS Parent Family-Reading Project*

The PASS Parent-Family Reading Project was developed to equip parents with the skills needed to lay the foundation of good reading and learning for their Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten level children. Early intervention in reading will help these children achieve good scores on the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening test and will later ensure SOL achievement. This program will serve 11 "PASS Priority" schools in Portsmouth and Richmond by: training and supporting parents in reading to their children, providing in-class libraries of grade-appropriate books and parent reading guides, helping families build in-home libraries and training teachers and volunteers in reading strategies for families. A replicable model of the PASS Parent Family Reading Project, including the in-class library system and the family literacy components, will be created.

Virginia Mentoring Partnership, *PASS Initiative*

The Governor's "Partnership for Achieving Successful Schools" (PASS) Initiative seeks to make a dramatic difference in the availability of quality mentoring to Virginia's children in need of the attention of a caring adult. Virginia Mentoring Partnership will train up to 1,700 new mentor and tutor volunteers to assist more than 100 academically warned schools. The Governor's staff has secured commitments from dozens of businesses, community and faith-based organizations across Virginia to "adopt" schools and to encourage their employees to participate in mentor programs.

Virginia Pharmacists Association, *Virginia High School Pharmacy Technician Career Initiative*

The Virginia Pharmacists Association (VPA) has partnered with the Secretary of Education, the Department of Education and the Virginia Community College System to develop the *Virginia High School Pharmacy Technician Career Initiative*. This initiative will: (1) develop a pharmaceutical curriculum to serve high school students; (2) distribute pharmaceutical career materials to educate students, parents and educators; (3) work with pilot high schools to identify credentialed teachers for program implementation; (4) recruit internship and mentoring partners among pharmacies and hospitals; and (5) recruit and enroll students for the program for the 2003/2004 school year.

2000 Technical Assistance Grant (Round 1) Program Summary

Virginia Commonwealth University School of Engineering, 2001 *FIRST* *Robotics Competition*

Virginia Commonwealth University School of Engineering has partnered with FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), teachers, parents, practicing engineers, scientists and technicians to provide the “ultimate mind sport” for high school students. This program seeks to increase statewide participation in FIRST, a unique high technology competition partnering students with industry professionals to design, build, program and test a functioning, life-size robot from scratch in only six weeks. Building upon the foundation of Virginia’s Standards of Learning in math and science, the program enables students to experience technology first-hand in a team setting. This program will provide seed money for 23 schools throughout Virginia to compete in the Regional competition in March 2001.

2001 Technical Assistance Grant (Round 2) Program Summaries

Virginia Commonwealth University School of Engineering, *2002 FIRST Robotics Competition*

Virginia Commonwealth University School of Engineering has partnered with FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), teachers, parents, practicing engineers, scientists and technicians to provide the “ultimate mind sport” for high school students. This program seeks to increase statewide participation in FIRST Robotics Competition, a unique high technology competition partnering students with industry professionals to design, build and program a functioning, life-size robot from scratch in only six weeks. Building upon the foundation of Virginia’s Standards of Learning in math and science, the program enables students to experience technology first-hand in a team setting. This program will help to sponsor participation in the kickoff event in January 2002, and provide seed money for several schools throughout Virginia to compete in the regional competition in March 2002 and the national competition in April 2002. This program will also help to fund a Robotics Exhibition at the 2001 State Fair highlighting Virginia teams from the 2001 competition.

Virginia Department of Education, *The Governor’s Academic Challenge*

The Virginia Department of Education has partnered with Capital One to provide assistance to 100 public schools that are accredited with warning in English and/or math. Each participating school will receive funding for 150 hours of additional instruction for struggling students. The Governor’s Academic Challenge was started by Governor Gilmore in October 2000. Schools participating in this pilot program in 2000-01 reported increases in pass rates on the Standards of Learning assessments as a result of the improved effectiveness of the regular year academic program, as well as the after school, Saturday school and summer school intervention programs made possible by this initiative.

Virginia 4-H Foundation, *Virginia FIRST LEGO League*

Virginia FIRST LEGO® League (VFLL) is a partnership between Virginia Tech University, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia 4-H Foundation and FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). VFLL will build a statewide infrastructure to support FIRST LEGO League in Virginia in order to recruit, create and sponsor up to 100 teams of students in grades 3-8 to compete in the December 2002 regional and state tournaments. VFLL will target under-served areas, such as inner city and rural areas, and under-represented groups, such as females and minorities. This program will foster relationships between education and business and strengthen our Commonwealth as a national leader in technology, education and the production of tomorrow’s technologically-literate workers.

2002-03 Technical Assistance Grant (Round 2) Program Summaries

Virginia Commonwealth University School of Engineering, 2003 FIRST Robotics Competition

Virginia Commonwealth University School of Engineering has partnered with FIRST ("For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology"), NASA Langley, teachers, parents, practicing engineers, scientists and technicians to provide the "ultimate mind sport" for high school students. This program seeks to increase statewide participation in FIRST, a unique high technology competition partnering students with industry professionals to design, build, program and test a functioning, life-size robot from scratch in only six weeks. Building upon the foundation of Virginia's Standards of Learning in math and science, the program enables students to experience technology first-hand in a team setting. This grant will be used for registration fees for up to 20 teams (representing 20 high schools) throughout Virginia to compete in the March 2003 Regional Robotics Competition.

Jobs for Virginia's Graduates

Jobs for Virginia's Graduates (JVG) is a non-profit organization and an affiliate of the national organization, Jobs for America's Graduates, Inc. JVG's mission is to assist at-risk and disadvantaged youth in graduating from high school and finding and keeping quality jobs. The JVG 12th grade school-to-work transition program trains Career Specialists who work with students by teaching up to 80 employment competencies, such as interview and work skills, identifying job and career opportunities and providing academic remediation. The Career Specialists also network with the business community in order to place students in jobs upon graduation. The JVG program begins by requiring the parent(s) of students to sign a contract that agrees to assist the student in achieving success in high school, and regular contact with the parent(s) is maintained throughout the program. JVG has 15 sites representing 17 school divisions and estimates that 1,000 students will be served with this grant.

1999 State Mini-Grants Program Summaries

Richmond City Public Schools

The Richmond Technical Center (RTC) is a magnet school that attracts students from the City of Richmond and the counties of Charles City, Hanover, New Kent, King & Queen and King William. The mission of the RTC school-to-work initiative is to provide their students with the academic and work readiness skills necessary to be successful in today's competitive, technologically advanced, and rapidly changing workforce.

In order to provide their students with the requisite academic and technical skills, the RTC has initiated a school-to-work program that utilizes both work and school-based learning activities. In order to achieve its mission, the Center is dedicated to (1) strengthening students' academic skills in the areas of reading, basic mathematics, writing and speaking, computer literacy, problem-solving, and decision making; (2) encouraging students to stay in and complete high school and pursue post-secondary training at the university, community college, or technical school level; (3) linking the Center's curriculum to appropriate work-site experiences and learning; (4) forming permanent two-way partnerships between business/industry and the school; and, (5) strengthening work ethics and building character in students through providing job mentoring, job shadowing, "mock" job interviews and other "real world" work experiences during non-school hours.

Norfolk Public Schools (Teacher/Business Externships)

The Norfolk Public Schools have partnered with local businesses and civic groups to improve the knowledge base of teachers and to provide them with alternative methods of teaching, evaluating, and delivering core content. The program places participating teachers in private sector work settings for one to three day work experience externships. The teachers gain first-hand, on-the-job experience and learn more about necessary skills and the changing dynamics of the work world. By participating in these externships, teachers return to the classroom with a wealth of information and an improved knowledge of the academic and technical skills needed in today's competitive and technologically advanced workforce.

Bridge To Success (Denbigh High School)

The Newport News Public Schools' Aviation Academy has partnered with Nascent Technology Solutions, LLC, and a local technology transfer business to create the *Bridge to Success* program. In order to bring core content alive and the private sector to the classroom, *Bridge to Success* is constructing a classroom wind tunnel. Both teachers and students are experiencing first-hand the integration of technology, academia, and the private sector. The program is helping teachers to upgrade their lesson plans and deliver content in an interesting and technologically advanced manner. In addition, the Program is helping students to

understand more clearly the application of academics, exposing students to new and exciting lines of work and areas of study, and providing the schools with a beneficial link to the private sector.

Norfolk Public Schools (Voluntary After-School Work Experiences)

The Norfolk Public Schools has partnered with local automotive dealerships, automotive service centers, and post-secondary education institutions to develop a summer internship program. The program is focused on students interested in pursuing a career in the automotive industry. The initiative is modeled after the Ford Academy of Manufacturing Sciences (FAMS) and the General Motors Youth Educational Systems (GMYES) programs. The mission of the program is to develop school-to-work automotive and engineering programs at the high school level that incorporates voluntary after-school work experiences. Participating students are strengthening academic skills while gaining valuable hands-on, technical skills through relevant work-site experiences.

The Making A Difference Program

The Making A Difference Foundation has partnered with Virginia Beach Public Schools, Kempsville High School, local businesses, post-secondary education institutions, parents, and students to continue providing award winning school-to-work activities for local youth. The partnership is hosting a series of 12 career-job readiness seminars/workshops to help explore local employment options. In addition, academic tutoring and remediation is being provided to participating students on the Standards of Learning (SOL), SATs, and courses with which they are demonstrating difficulty. The mission of the partnership is to introduce the students to various employment options and careers while providing them with the academic skills necessary to be successful in today's competitive workforce.

Giles County Partnerships for Excellence

The Giles County Partnership for Excellence Foundation, Inc. has partnered with the Giles County Public Schools, local businesses, parents, and civic groups to provide local students with a comprehensive school-to-work initiative. The partnership is providing participating students with voluntary after-school work experiences, mentoring activities, and scholarships for post-secondary education and training. The mission of the program is to increase academic achievement through mentoring and remediation; enhance student knowledge of current workforce trends and career awareness; and to enable students to continue their education beyond secondary schooling.

Oscar Smith High School

The Chesapeake Alternative School (CAS) has partnered with Young Audiences of Virginia to provide local at-risk students with a comprehensive school-to-work program. The partnership provides job-skills training to students who have been removed from their neighborhood school and placed in CAS for specialized, individual attention.

Professional development sessions are providing teachers with methods of instruction which are helping them to improve workforce readiness in their classrooms. The parent workshops are providing parents with tips on how to help their children enter the workforce, as well as give interested parents some job-skills training of their own. This program is preparing CAS at-risk students for the workforce by making learning relevant, guiding the acquisition of job-readiness skills, and coaching the students through their first experiences in work environments.

Marshall High School Academy

Marshall Academy, a center existing within George C. Marshall High School, offers courses specializing in business, engineering, and international and scientific studies. The mission of the academy is to offer advanced technical and specialized courses that successfully integrate career and academic preparation.

In addition to advanced courses, the Academy is sponsoring Open House and Job Fair events to improve communications with the business community, and to build career awareness among students, parents, and school personnel. To further help students engage in career exploration and prepare for the workforce, students will be aided and directed in the development of personal career portfolios. The portfolios will serve as a valuable tool for students seeking employment. Additionally, scholarships will be provided to those at-risk students that exhibit a genuine interest in pursuing post-secondary education.

Manufacturing Technology Center

The Manufacturing Technology Center (MTC) uses its state-of-the art Mobile Learning Unit (MLU) to provide access to technology training and demonstrations to public school students to generate interest in technology careers and provide information concerning the postsecondary education required to work in these careers. Students of the underrepresented rural Appalachian population in southwestern Virginia benefit from this six-month MTC effort.

The MLU is a "classroom of the future" in a custom designed tractor-trailer unit capable of deploying advanced technology training and demonstrations to any location. It has the capability to be used as a classroom, a hands-on laboratory, a demonstration center, or combinations thereof.

The expected outcome is to increase the retention of students through completion of high school and to increase the percentage of the region's population entering and completing postsecondary technical education programs.

VCU Robotics/FIRST

For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) is a non-profit organization which seeks to inspire our nation's next generation of scientists, engineers, technicians, and inventors by exposing them to the excitement of engineering and invention while they are still in high school. By partnering high school students, teachers, and parents with practicing engineers, scientist, and technicians from within the local area, community-based teams are developed which accomplish the task of designing, building, programming, and testing a functioning, remotely operated, life-size robot from scratch in the span of six weeks. These teams then compete against other teams in regional and national events to determine which machines are superior.

Woodbridge Senior High School

Woodbridge Senior High School has become involved with the FIRST Robotics Competition and has established its own robotics team. This team participated in a six-week effort to design and build a robot. Teachers provided supervision and administrative facilitation, but organization, design, milestone progress, and motivational support came directly from the students. The students self concluded the empiric value of the education they were receiving.

Richmond Community High School

The team participated in the FIRST Robotics Competition, for which they designed, tested and redesigned a sturdy and reliable robot. After receiving the Xerox Award for Creativity and the FIRST Award for the Best Offensive Round at the FIRST Southeastern Regional Robotics Competition, this team is now going to the FIRST National Robotics Competition.

The participating students have been able to break out of the classroom to enthusiastically explore options and skills necessary to the fields of science and technology. The challenge of designing and building the robot has opened new vistas for the students and they have learned the value of teamwork and the benefits of hard work.

2000 State Mini-Grants Program Summaries

Employment Resources, Inc., *Project Prepare II*

Project Prepare II is a partnership between Employment Resources, Inc., King George County Public Schools, parents and businesses providing tutoring, mentoring and career exploration for at-risk middle and high school students. The program will serve approximately 50 King George County students who are enrolled in the County's Alternative Education or GED Prep programs. Program curricula will build upon the foundation of Virginia's Standards of Learning, including career exploration activities, refinement of soft skills in areas such as communication, team building and critical thinking, and job search preparation such as resume writing and interviewing skills.

VCU School of Engineering, *FIRST Robotics Competition*

Virginia Commonwealth University School of Engineering has partnered with FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), teachers, parents, practicing engineers, scientists and technicians to provide the "ultimate mind sport" for high school students. This program seeks to increase statewide participation in FIRST, a unique high technology competition partnering students with industry professionals to design, build, program and test a functioning, life-size robot from scratch in only six weeks. Building upon the foundation of Virginia's Standards of Learning in math and science, the program enables students to experience technology first-hand in a team setting. The partnership will assist seven teams of Virginia students participating in the 2001 National Robotics competition. This grant will also support a 2000 Virginia State Fair Exhibition of teams that participated in the 2000 regional competition.

State Council of Higher Education of Virginia, *GEAR UP*

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) has partnered with the federal GEAR-UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) program to mentor approximately 4,800 7th through 12th grade students across Virginia, tracking their progress in junior high, high school and through successful enrollment in post-secondary schools. VBEP will assist SCHEV by providing funds to establish and maintain the Gear-Up Neighborhood Academies.

2001 State Mini-Grants Program Summaries

Giles County Partnerships for Excellence Foundation, *Giles County At-Risk and Disabled Youth School-To-Work Initiative*

The *Giles County At-Risk and Disabled Youth School-To-Work Initiative* will serve at-risk students and students with disabilities in grades 11 and 12. The goal of the program is to make these students a part of the School to Work initiative through remedial tutoring, behavioral risk avoidance and student internships. The Giles County Partnerships for Excellence Foundation, established in 1991, has grown to 83 businesses and local government agencies and the Giles County Schools and supports academic excellence and economic opportunities for students.

In-Agape Family Life & Educational Center, *Stay Up While You Are Out & One More Chance*

The In-Agape Family Life & Education Center has developed a partnership with the Newport News and Hampton School Divisions to serve at-risk students in grades K-12. This program consists of four groups, Stay Up While You are Out, Once More Chance, Homework Clubs and The Agape Immediate Foster Care Home, and address the social and academic needs of suspended, expelled and troubled students. This program will serve out-of-school youth on short-term suspension (10 days or less), long-term suspension (11 to 180) days and those expelled from school by providing individualized tutoring and mentoring to students, and guidance and support to parents and guardians.

Making a Difference Foundation, *Reaching All Youth (RAY)*

The *Reaching All Youth (RAY)* project was developed by Making A Difference Foundation to serve Chesapeake, Hampton and Newport's News middle and high school students in three ways. First, students in will receive tutoring, mentoring and early reading intervention. Second, SAT training and college preparation will be encouraged to develop local tutoring and mentoring programs. Third, RAY will help out-of-school youth to earn a GED. No young person asking for help is turned away from RAY.

Montgomery County Public Schools, *Montgomery County's High School/High Tech Program*

Montgomery County Public Schools will develop a High School/High Tech program that encourages students with disabilities to pursue post-secondary education and training to equip them to compete in the high tech workforce of the present and future. Partners include the

Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services and the Americans with Disabilities Act Consortium. This partnership seeks to develop the Montgomery County program to reach approximately 28 students in grades 10-12 in the first year. Coordinators will provide services for students including person-centered planning, vocational evaluation, vocational/employment training, community-based training, agency linkages and post-secondary transition planning.

Virginia Department of Conservation, *Operation Spruce-Up and Fall River Renaissance Field Trips for Students*

The Virginia Department of Conservation, with corporate partners, will sponsor eight field trips targeted at K-12 students from at-risk schools and rural schools statewide that may lack transportation funding. Field activities, such as *Virginia's State Parks, Your Backyard Classroom*, will be utilized to expose students to hands-on educational experiences that can be related to classroom studies. The curriculum will relate to the Virginia SOL's and incorporate science, as well as reading, writing and math.

Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools, *Shared Reading Project*

The Shared Reading Project is a literacy program that was developed and implemented by the Pre-College National Mission Programs at Gallaudet University's Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center. The project is designed to improve the literacy skills of deaf and hard-of-hearing children, ages 5-8, by providing a trained tutor to teach the hearing parents how to sign and share books with their children. The program will involve training the tutors who in turn will visit a family weekly (for a 20-week period) to coach the parents, as well as other family members. The intended outcome will be to increase the literacy and academic skills of the children and increase the communication between the parents and their children.