

FY09 Education

October 2008

The Commission received 45 proposals for FY09 Education funds by the August 15th due date. Three have been withdrawn, leaving 42 proposals requesting more than \$17 million. The Committee has a balance from the FY09 budget and carried forward funds of \$9,793,088. Assuming the Committee obligates \$3.8 million to continue the four-year scholarship programs, and reserving an additional \$950,000 pending proposed action to increase those programs by 25%, a balance of \$5,043,088 would be for the following competitive grant proposals.

FY09 Education – Staff Recommendations

Request #	Organization Name	Project Title	Request Amount	Recommend Amount
1691	Averett University	Averett Center of Excellence in Autism Education	\$532,695	\$0
1704	Bland County Schools	MOUNTAIN HOME CENTER - A Place-based Education, Community, and Sustainable Economy Project	\$150,000	\$0
1706	Bluefield College	Bluefield College Rural Healthcare Education Program	\$360,000	\$0
1677	Central Virginia Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.	Allied Health Careers: Cardiovascular Sonography	\$403,976	\$403,976
1698	Community Foundation of the Dan River Region/Dan River Region Collaborative	National Fund for Workforce Solutions - Dan River Region Collaborative	\$600,000	\$200,000
1687	Crater Regional Partnership	Skill Streams For Success - A Workforce Development Program	\$110,000	\$110,000
1702	Dan River Business Development Center	Entrepreneurial Development Support	\$350,000	\$0
1705	Danville Community College	FY2009 - 2010 Danville Community College Grant Application	\$499,000	\$435,000
1717	Industrial Development Authority of Dickenson County	Dickenson Center for Education and Research	\$300,000	\$0
1707	Emory & Henry College	Radio Station WEHC: Providing Workforce Skill Development for Students	\$105,000	\$0
1700	County of Franklin	Franklin Center Career Initiative II	\$350,000	\$0
1694	Halifax County Public Schools	Halifax GED Testing Center	\$75,000	\$0

1715	Lonesome Pine Office on Youth	Southwest Virginia Imagination Library	\$262,512	\$0
1685	Lynchburg College	Development of a Regional Nursing Simulation and Virtual Clinical Learning Center	\$387,299	\$0
1711	Mount Rogers Regional Adult Education Program	Southwest Virginia Race to GED	\$198,000	\$90,000
1689	Mountain Empire Community College	Workforce Development for Energy Sector	\$300,000	\$0
1690	Mountain Empire Community College	Scholarships for Tobacco Families and AIMS Higher Scholars	\$525,000	\$200,000
1680	Mountain Kids, Inc.	Mountain Scholars Career and Technical Education Program	\$161,310	\$0
1688	New College Institute	The Center for Tomorrow	\$125,000	withdrawn
1692	Old Dominion University Research Foundation/Virginia Space Grant Consortium	Virginia Aerosphere Science and Technology Scholars	\$101,540	\$0
1682	Patrick Henry Community College Foundation	Increasing Rural Educational Achievement, Technical Certification, and Entrepreneurship	\$510,000	\$440,000
1681	Town of Pennington Gap	Lee Theatre Learning Center	\$522,140	\$0
1714	Rich Valley Agricultural and Fair Association	Rich Valley Community and Education Center	\$199,450	\$0
1718	Russell County Public Library	Honaker Community Library Technology Center	\$65,000	\$0
1511	Town of Saltville	Saltville Regional Dental Training Facility	\$255,330	\$0
1684	Second Chance Learning Center	SCLC Expansion	\$50,000	\$0
1703	Southern Virginia Higher Education Center	Digital Audio Visual Instructional Support (DAVIS) Project	\$189,950	\$0
1695	Southside Virginia Community College Foundation	Southside Workforce Academy Preparation FY09	\$584,484	\$407,000
1678	Southwest Virginia Community College	SVCC Tobacco Outreach Scholarship Program FY09	\$550,000	\$300,000
1679	Southwest Virginia Community College	SVCC Construction Academy	\$438,689	\$205,000
1324	Southwest Virginia Education and Training Network	RALI Rural Appalachian Learning Initiative	\$819,250	\$0
1693	University of Virginia's College at Wise Foundation	VoIP System Implementation and Educational Initiative	\$798,225	\$0

1699	University of Virginia	Engineers: PRODUCED in Virginia	\$3,291,600	\$656,000
1701	Virginia Council on Economic Education	Ensuring Economic Development Through Economic Education	\$190,526	\$0
1697	Virginia Early Childhood Foundation	Southside/Southwest School Readiness Initiative	\$900,000	\$900,000
1708	Virginia Highlands Community College	Hospitality and Tourism Program Revitalization and Enhancement	\$95,000	\$0
1709	Virginia Highlands Community College	VHCC Welding Lab	\$257,872	\$0
1710	Virginia Highlands Community College	Scholarships for Tobacco Families and AIMS Higher Scholars	\$500,000	\$250,000
1713	Virginia Intermont College	The Tourism Program at Virginia Intermont College	\$238,700	\$0
1696	VirginiaFIRST	VirginiaFIRST-Increasing Understanding of Math, Science and Technology in the tobacco Regions of Virginia	\$111,100	\$0
1716	Wise Workforce Center	Wise Workforce Youth Build Program	\$197,560	\$0
1686	Wytheville Community College	Wytheville Community College's HVAC Program at the Crossroads Institute	\$141,882	\$71,882
1683	Wytheville Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.	Wytheville Community College's Forging Future Scholarship Program	\$350,000	\$200,000
	Total Requested and Recommended		\$17,162,646	\$4,868,858
	Balance Available		\$5,043,088	\$174,230

Staff Summaries and Recommendations

Averett University

Averett Center for Excellence in Autism Education (#1691)

\$535,695

Start-up funding is requested for a two-year period by this private educational institution to support a new Center of Excellence in Autism Education, including undergraduate and graduate degree specialization for participants in the Averett Education program. The specific funding request to the TCR is for a program director, continuing educator training and faculty development for educating regional teachers on the optimal teaching methods, technology infrastructure delivery improvements, establishing a scholarship program for graduate and undergraduate stipends in Education with a major in autism, creation of a Parent Resource Center, and research on alternative education program. The program is anticipated to graduate 50-60 students per year with certificates in autism studies.

Total project cost is \$1,341,000. Other funding: \$1,000,000 – US Dept. of Education–Special Education for Model School early intervention development operations (pending); \$90,512–Southside, VA for Phase I feasibility, literature review and curriculum development (complete); \$260,000–Mitsubishi America for Development of Autism Program Diagnosis & Screening (pending); \$10,000–Private Donor for conducting feasibility study and business plan (complete).

Staff comments & recommendations: Averett has conducted a feasibility study which indicates rising numbers of autistic students and demand from local teachers for additional training. The study cites the Virginia Autism Council website, which identifies existing autism certificate programs and specialized courses offered through six Virginia institutions for higher education including on-line courses offered through Regent University and VCU. This is one of several requests in recent years from a single institution requesting scholarships funding for a single specific program (the Commission has declined these proposals). An alternative to meet demand for additional training is for Averett to partner with IALR’s Summer Educator’s Institute and in-state autism resource centers to offer workshops and potentially certificates. All other matching funds are pending. **Staff recommends no award.**

Bland County Schools

MOUNTAIN HOME CENTER-A Place-based Education, Community and Sustainable Economy Project (#1704)

\$150,000

Funds are requested to continue the renovation of a property adjacent to Rocky Gap High School to develop a center to celebrate rural life in Bland County while also functioning as a center for school and community technology learning activities. In Phase I the oral history and technology activities of the Bland County History Archives will expand into the center. The facilities will be available for after-school community use, such as long distance learning courses and technology workshops overseen by trained students. Phase II will focus on place-based science activities with an emphasis to be placed on learning science and to advance scientific knowledge of our environment and learning technology skills while completing projects based on the acquired data.

Total project cost is \$539,684. Other funding: \$28,000-USDA for technology purchases (received); \$166,000-Bland County School Board for Phase I construction (to be completed by 8/20/08); \$65,000-Wythe-Bland Community Foundation for construction and technology purchases (money will be spent upon completion of Phase I by 10/1/08); \$28,850- various individual contributions for construction and technology purchases (money will be spent upon completion of Phase I by 10/1/08).

Staff comments & recommendation: The center’s programming includes large components of cultural preservation and general community use, in addition to some K-12 STEM focus. Numbers of academic credentials to be granted are not quantified, and do not appear to correspond with TICR-targeted workforce training priorities. **Staff recommends no award.**

Bluefield College

Bluefield College Rural Healthcare Education Program (#1706)

\$360,000

Funds are requested for an 18-month start up period to implement the Bluefield College Rural Healthcare Education Program (RHEP) which will provide an accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing as well as a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management and Leadership, delivered in a mix of face-to-face classes,

synchronous distance-learning and online education opportunities. An environmental scan is currently underway to assess the need and feasibility of the programs, which are expected to serve Wythe, Bland, Tazewell, Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, Lee Scott and Wise counties and the City of Norton. Initially the program will offer courses at Southwest Virginia Community College in Richlands, the SwVCC Booth Center in Grundy, Wytheville Community College and the Bluestone Workforce Center in Tazewell. Future sites may include Virginia Highlands Community College and Mountain Empire Community College through the Tri College Nursing Program.

Total project cost is \$635,000. Other funding: \$30,000-Jessie Ball DuPont Fund for assistance in preparing for internal and external (pending); \$245,000-Bluefield College for salaries, benefits and program operation expenses (available).

Staff comments & recommendation: The program is anticipated to serve as an additional educational step for the 500 students enrolled annually in the TICR-supported Tri-College nursing program at area community colleges, and could potentially be offered statewide through Bluefield's outreach centers. However, the needs assessment is not yet completed, enrollment levels and operating budgets have not yet been projected, and accreditation by the state nursing board has not yet been achieved. The project has considerable merit but appears to be a better candidate for additional study and possible future funding. **Staff recommends no award.**

Central Virginia Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.

Allied Health Careers: Cardiovascular Sonography (#1677)

\$403,976

CVCC plans to establish a cardiovascular sonography career studies certificate program in collaboration with five other community colleges serving Southside and Central Virginia (it is modeled on a program in Caldwell NC). TICR funding is requested for personal services during the first year to develop curriculum and recruitment of program participants, equipment for the instructional facility, and renovation of a classroom to accommodate the program. The Centra Health Foundation and other regional health care foundations are contributing equipment and maintenance as match for the project. The program is designed to be self-sustaining and will serve 12-14 students each year with the first classes being offered in August 2010. A survey of the regional hospitals and healthcare clinics was conducted to verify the need for cardiographers. The project includes continued collaboration with these healthcare facilities for clinical placements of students following program completion. Median salaries for cardiovascular sonography health specialists are \$48,000 - \$70,000, depending on experience and the type of employer.

Total project cost is \$1,064,609. Other funding: \$75,497-CVCC for salaries (budgeted for years 2-3); \$240,163 CVCC for tuition and fees (anticipated over 3 years); \$129,973-Hospital Foundation and Private Clinic Donations for operations (proposed); \$215,000-Centra Health Foundation for equipment and maintenance expenses (promised).

Staff comments & recommendations: The project establishes a new health career studies certificate program in cooperation with other community colleges in the region, and may serve as a model for other targeted certificates where demand for participants across a broader region (as opposed to only a specific college service area) provide participation levels that justify and will sustain the program offering. This project will benefit approximately 104 students over the 8 year economic life of the requested equipment. **Staff recommends award of \$403,976.**

**Community Foundation of the Dan River Region (Dan River Region Collaborative)
National Fund for Workforce Solutions – Dan River Region Collaborative (#1698)
\$600,000**

TICR funding is requested for a three-year period by a partnership of the Foundation, the Danville-Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce and Danville Community College to match a request for national grant funds to provide “innovative training initiatives” in the Dan River Region. The Foundation has submitted a \$300,000 funding application to the National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS), a collaboration of national foundations that aims to support regional workforce funding initiatives and address workforce challenges by strengthening and expanding regional workforce partnerships (see www.nfwsolutions.org). The NFWS requires a 4:1 match in pooled or aligned funds. After the initial organization development phase is completed with funding from NFWS, area foundations, and partnering entities, this group will identify specific training programs to benefit the dual customers of business/industry and individuals in the group’s targeted populations. The requested TICR funds would be distributed in years two and three through a request for proposals process. The region served includes Halifax, Henry, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Danville, Martinsville and Caswell County NC.

Total project cost is \$1,500,000. Other funding: \$300,000-National Fund for Workforce Solutions (approved as of 9/18/08); \$600,000-Harvest Foundation/Danville Regional Foundation (pending).

Staff comments & recommendations: The Collaborative received written approval of the \$300,000 NFWS award on September 18th (funds will be released in three equal annual installments upon proof of progress). The approval brings the resources of several of the country’s largest foundations (e.g. Ford, Microsoft, Hitachi etc.) and U.S. Department of Labor, using methodology previously tested in urban areas such as Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles. TICR funding for workforce development program implementation was envisioned in the application for use in years two and three, but applicant has subsequently responded that one-year funding of \$200,000 could be used for grants in latter months of the first year. **Staff recommends award of \$200,000.**

**Crater Regional Partnership
Skill Streams For Success – a workforce Development Program (#1687)
\$110,000**

This project will serve approximately 180 participants across the Crater Planning District (Dinwiddie, Greensville and Sussex Counties) in “Skill Streams for Success” workplace readiness training classes, through a new Truck Driver Commercial Driver’s (CLD) License program, and a second year of a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) licensing/certification program. Funding is requested to contract with John Tyler Community College for the costs of delivery of training and informational sessions as well as related educational publications and materials. Financial assistance is targeted only to tobacco region residents, and members of tobacco families pay no costs for classes.

Total project cost is \$164,745. Other funding: \$39,745-John Tyler Community College for in-kind donation of management office space support; \$15,000-Crater Regional Partnership for printing, supplies, media and management/training support (received).

Staff comments & recommendations: This request represents an eighth round of funding for this regional workforce partnership (seven previous grants from Education and Special Projects total \$572,000 since 2001). These programs are delivered by John Tyler Community College and its subcontractors, and serves this community college service area which has not historically received TICR community college “allocations.” All previous grants are closed with the exception of the \$100,000 FY08 education award,

which is scheduled to be spent by mid-spring 2009. This is a coordinated regional approach that awards state Career Readiness Certificates using the national Work Keys assessment system and instruction in basic workplace skills, including GED. Nursing and truck driving are two employment sectors previously supported by the Commission to serve allied health employers and Port-related distribution. The program works with major employers including Gerdau (Chapparral) Steel, closely tracks employment outcomes (per a condition of the FY07 grant) and has seen excellent success placing the first classes of nursing graduates that were supported with the FY08 grant. **Staff recommends award of \$110,000.**

Dan River Business Development Center
Entrepreneurial Development Support (#1702)
\$350,000

Funds are requested to expand the operations of the Center to provide enhanced business development support through the hiring under contract of an Operations Manager and Project Analyst, scholarships for entrepreneurship training and professional business development assistance, purchase of telecommunications equipment including computers and facility networking equipment upgrades, and the retrofit of existing office suite and seminar room to provide adjoining workspace for one-on-one station training.

Total project cost is \$374,500. Other funding: \$100,000 City of Danville and Pittsylvania County - \$50,000 each, to support staff costs of center for business development (approved); \$16,000-Community Foundation of the Dan River Region to purchase furniture and cubicles for Office Enterprise (received); State funding will be sought for project technology aspects and federal funding will be sought for leveraging additional funds.

Staff comments & recommendations: This project supports small business development, which is typically an Economic Development Committee function. The outcomes have merit in terms of economic development but are not a targeted outcome of Education Committee funding. This proposal requests operational support for a successful but long-established regional center, which is contrary to General Funding Policies regarding ongoing operational support. Proposed e-commerce assistance to businesses should be coordinated through the TICR-supported VECTEC office in Halifax. **Staff recommends no award.**

Danville Community College
FY2009-2010 Danville Community College Grant Application (#1705)
\$499,000

Funding is requested for a 20-month period to support: financial assistance scholarships for tobacco farmers or immediate family members (\$100,000); personal services to provide tutoring (\$50,000); two full-time nursing facility positions to expand nursing education to include a campus-based RN clinical and classroom instruction in fall 2009 (\$170,000); purchase of four axis milling machine benefiting ~ 60 students per year in the Precision Machining Technology program (\$120,000); purchase of a computerized digital printing press for the Graphic Imaging Technology printing lab benefiting ~ 10-15 students per year (\$39,000); and the DCC Workforce Services Center is seeking funds for a Altendorf Saw benefiting ~ 120 participants each year trained and certified as maintenance engineering technicians through the Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Wood Products Technology (\$20,000).

Total project cost is \$499,000. Other funding: \$433,000-Virginia Community College system for tutoring, faculty salaries, and equipment (funded, FY2008-09); \$9.7m-Danville Regional Foundation for construction of Foundation Hall for DCC Health Sciences (received).

Staff comments & recommendations: Danville Community College and its Foundation have received fourteen TICR grants totaling \$4,257,875, of which nine grants remain open with unexpended balances of \$1,341,281. Commission staff met with DCC in August to discuss de-obligation of older grant balances and a response from DCC regarding amounts to be de-obligated has been requested. The majority of the requested activities in this proposal support academic completion (e.g. tutoring) and targeted regional employment opportunities (e.g. nursing, advanced manufacturing and wood products). The requested digital printing press appears related to area employment opportunities, though on a limited basis and with low student numbers in a career path that has not (to date) been a TICR-targeted area. **With the condition that balances on all grants awarded prior to FY07 be de-obligated (unless sufficient justification for maintaining the balance is approved by the Commission), staff recommends an award of \$435,000 (including reduced funding of \$25,000 for tutoring, and excluding acquisition of the digital press).**

Industrial Development Authority of Dickenson County
Dickenson Center for Education and Research (#1717)
\$300,000

Funds are requested to complete construction by June '09 on three academic classrooms and to furnish five academic classrooms in The Dickenson Center for Education and Research. The facility, which involved renovating an existing shell building owned by the Dickenson County IDA, opened this fall to serve GED and higher educational needs and provide workforce training for mining, gas, technology, and health occupations. Future considerations for the DCER will be to serve as a field research facility for the carbon capture and storage industry. Both Southwest Virginia Community College and Mountain Empire Community College will provide classes at the facility which will provide classroom facilities for both traditional and distance education classes.

Total project cost is \$7,615,830. Other funding: \$150,000-USDA Rural Development (Rural Business Enterprise Grant) for construction of industrial classrooms (awarded July 2008); \$100,000-Congressional Earmark for furnishings and equipment (approved by Senate appropriations); \$100,000-Appalachian Region Commission to purchase technology equipment for operation (awaiting release of funds); \$0-USDA Rural Development Community Facilities to purchase furnishings (pending-approved expected in September); \$200,000-Virginia Tobacco commission (SW Economic Development) for construction (awarded).

Staff comments & recommendation: A July '08 award from Southwest Economic Development is being used to continue interior renovations, however initial enrollment for Fall '08 was low and current space appears adequate for short-term needs. Staff has also encouraged the County to approach other funders for further renovations, including DHCD, which has participated in funding several similar facilities in tobacco region. **Staff recommends no award.**

Emory & Henry College
Radio Station WEHC: Providing Workforce Skill Development for Students (#1707)
\$105,000

Funds are requested for a 19-month period to support the education and training opportunities associated with the expansion of campus radio station WEHC from 500 watts to 10,000 watts. The new radio station

will provide college and community programming to a five-county region, supporting projects related to local sustainable agriculture, local music tourism endeavors, and a newly established local museum. TICR funding would be used (in descending order of priority) to purchase equipment for the station, to purchase 16 site licenses of Adobe Audition Software, and for first year salary and benefits for a Station Supervisor.

Total project cost is \$446,838. Other funding: \$192,808-Public Telecommunications Facilities Program to purchase equipment (pending); \$14,580-Emory & Henry College for capital items and operating funds (approved); \$85,150-Emory & Henry College to cover staff salaries and benefits and student worker salaries (approved); \$42,000- individual donors funds to be used for operations (approved); \$4,000- underwriting for sports broadcasts (to be raised in 2008-2009); \$1,300 - endowment earnings from funds to support the station balance to be used for equipment (approved).

Staff comments & recommendation: The station programming that is cited in the application appears to be primarily community enrichment and entertainment content, with minimal economic development and education outcomes that would be difficult to quantify and attribute directly to radio broadcasts. The potential for radio broadcasting careers for the 34 students trained annually in the station has not (to date) been a targeted high-priority occupation for the Commission. **Staff recommends no award.**

County of Franklin

Franklin Center Career Initiative II (#1700)

\$350,000

TICR funds are requested primarily for equipment to support educational endeavors into demand occupations: SimMan Simulator (\$113,644) to provide additional training modules for the Center's Allied Health Lab equipment; new equipment for science lab (\$76,000) in order to offer ~ 35 students coursework in earth science, biology, and possibly chemistry; multipurpose room videoconferencing equipment (\$82,356) to expand capacity for distance learning targeting ~ 75 additional participants in the first year; customer service training videos to be used with local businesses (\$10,000), and adult sign language class (\$2,000) for educators who will train others. Additional funds (\$66,000) are requested for personnel, instruction, and materials to expand ABE/GED class offerings in three satellite locations at elementary schools throughout the county to remove transportation barriers for ~ 135 citizens seeking degree completion.

Total project cost is \$560,000. Other funding: \$70,000-Patrick Henry & Virginia Western Community Colleges for instructional and administrative services (in-kind-staff salaries to be absorbed by community colleges); \$40,000-Franklin County Public Schools Adult Education for instructional and administrative services (in-kind-staff instructional and administrative support costs to be absorbed by the County of Franklin); \$100,000-The Franklin County Center & Public Safety for administrative support, facilities, support, and instruction (cash and in-kind).

Staff comments & recommendations: Franklin Center and its programs have received nine TICR grants in past years totaling over \$2.4 million in support of education initiatives, including ~ \$590,000 to support adult basic education and workforce development, and \$1.8 million for construction of the Center. The Center is operating a high level of use by a wide array of area education partners, and these enhancements would unquestionably add value to a very successful facility. Alternatively, the County has access to more than \$1.27 million of currently available Southside Economic Development allocation for workforce-related projects and programs. **Staff recommends no award, and suggests the highest priority activities that generate measurable employment outcomes be resubmitted to the Southside Economic Development Committee.**

Halifax County Public Schools
Halifax GED Testing Center (#1694)
\$75,000

The Halifax GED Testing Center requests funding through June '09 for stipends for GED examiners and a practice test analyst, testing vouchers, travel expenses to addendum sites for testing staff, marketing/advertising projects, computer literacy classes and testing materials and supplies. The proposal anticipates recruiting 400 GED students, with 280 passing the test and receiving the credential.

Total project cost is \$183,385. Other funding: \$6,000-Dept. of Housing and Community Development for testing vouchers, computer literacy, and OPT analyst (committed); \$64,385-Halifax County Public Schools for FT/PT examiners' salaries, benefits, travel, and operational costs (committed); \$1,000-Wal-Mart for testing vouchers (committed); \$4,000-Adult Education/Middle College Programs/HCPS Mob Lab for testing vouchers and testing/computer lab (projected fees generated during FY2008-09).

Staff comments & recommendations: The outcome targets in this request are not net increases in program participation levels. The TICR request appears to be for operating funds to maintain the existing program outcomes (500+ students in each of past 2 years, with 300+ passing tests) and to sustain current operating levels. **Staff recommends no award.**

Lonesome Pine Office on Youth
Southwest Virginia Imagination Library (#1715)
\$262,512

Funds are requested by non-profit regional applicant to cover 80% of eligible children under the age of five from several Southwest localities in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program. The program provides an age-appropriate book for each enrolled child once each month from birth to the fifth birthday. The requested amount would cover the \$30 annual enrollment fee per child in the Counties of Buchanan, Dickinson, Lee, Scott and Washington and Wise as well as the Cities of Norton and Bristol. The \$30 fee will cover the cost of postage for mailing the books. Since its inception in 2005, the program has been reaching approximately 57% of the 10,938 children in the participating localities. The requested funds would expand the program to an additional 3,500 children.

Total project cost is \$328,140. Other funding: \$34,000-County governments to purchase books (ongoing requests); \$60,000-Foundations (Slemp, Napoleon Hill, Speedway Charities) to purchase books (ongoing requests); \$40,000- local businesses and private citizens to purchase books (ongoing request).

Staff comments & recommendation: While there is research evidence that this approach leads to improved literacy and academic achievement in children, this proposal has been declined in previous grant cycles as being a non-targeted TICR priority. Furthermore, the request appears to supplant current funding and exceed the cost to serve the entire region as noted in the application (\$213,276 annually). Additionally, maintaining the projected enrollment levels would require an annual funding commitment from the Commission. Staff suggests a more comprehensive approach to pre-school preparatory programs as represented in the VECF proposal (grant application # 1697) is a more holistic and recognized approach that yields similar and more wide-reaching outcomes for the entire tobacco region. **Staff recommends no award.**

Lynchburg College

Development of a Regional Nursing Simulation and Virtual Clinic Learning Center (#1685) **\$387,299**

Funding is requested for the creation of a regional simulation and virtual learning lab that will be used for health careers programs. Education for at least 200 nursing and healthcare students in existing nursing programs at the College and Centra Hospitals will be enhanced by the availability of this new equipment. Funds will be used to purchase three high-fidelity manikins (SimMan 3G, SimBaby, and SimNewB), virtual intravenous (IV) training systems, four mid-fidelity manikins, cardiopulmonary manikins, a birthing simulator, an electrocardiogram task training, six bedside tables, six overbed tables, ten examination tables, an infant warmer, and ten desktop computers for the virtual learning section of the lab. The proposal indicates a projected outcome of 10% increase in the number of enrolled nursing students at the participating programs.

Total project cost is \$470,855. Other funding: \$9,556-Hill-Rom, Inc. for electric hospital beds (pending)

Staff comments & Recommendations: While the requested simulation equipment is widely-recognized as state-of-the-art essential training tools, the equipment will be located at a private facility located outside the tobacco region. A private health care provider, Centra Health will directly benefit from the shared use of the facilities for training students in their licensed practical nursing program and diploma nursing program. The relationships with proposed public entities as project partners do not appear to be solidified (e.g. community colleges and universities in the tobacco region, most of which already possess this equipment). Students from outside the tobacco region would also benefit from the facilities, including 56% of current nursing student enrolled at Lynchburg College and 55% of the students enrolled at Centra Health who are not from the tobacco region. In contrast, less than 20% of the project costs are from matching funds. **Staff recommends no award.**

Mount Rogers Regional Adult Education Program

Southwest Virginia Race to GED (#1711)

\$198,000

Funding is requested to conduct the sixth year of the SWVA RACE to GED program. The program represents an ongoing partnership of the three regional adult education programs serving planning districts 1, 2, and 3, and is the primary source of GED testing and adult education in SW Virginia. Funds are requested to provide scholarships and to offer “testing on demand” (\$90,000) as well as to continue an aggressive marketing campaign designed to recruit individuals who would benefit from obtaining a GED (\$108,000). The program expects to serve 2,500 individuals in 2009.

Total project cost is \$835,356. Other funding: \$80,000-Regional Adult Education Program for operating costs (in-hand); \$40,000-Food City for marketing assistance and graduation incentives (approved); \$350,000-Bristol Motor Speedway for marketing and graduation incentives (approved); \$167,356-Charter Media for marketing assistance and graduation incentives (approved).

Staff comments & recommendation: This regional partnership has received five TICR grants previously, totaling \$514,542 since late-2003. The applicant reports that remaining balances from the two most recent grants will be exhausted in Fall '08. This request for a sixth round of funding (similar to the case with Crater “Skillstreams” request #1687) is contrary to the Commission’s General Funding Policies regarding ongoing operating support. However, data requested by staff indicates the number of individuals tested has risen steadily from 1,571 in 2003-04 to 2,293 in 2007-08, and GEDs granted has risen from 1,100 in '03-04 to 1,446 in '07-08. While only a portion of those numbers can be attributed to TICR funding (they include all

residents assisted by the regional programs), it is apparent that the additional “on-demand” testing provided with TICR funds have been a factor in raising enrollment and granting of credentials across the region. The marketing effort is a well-designed campaign and is well-matched with outside funds, but no detailed marketing plan has been provided for this substantial component of the request. **Staff recommends an award of \$90,000 for scholarships and testing (excluding marketing activities).**

Mountain Empire Community College
Workforce Development for Energy Sector (#1689)
\$300,000

Funds are requested for a two-year period to continue the support of workforce development for the energy sector by training and assisting local workers to prepare for jobs both in the construction and operation of the Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center and for other energy sector jobs in the region. Approximately \$94,000 will be allocated to scholarships for employees for The Shaw Group (scholarships are proposed to be last-dollar awards for tobacco region residents only, to be used in the second year of the project). Approximately \$120,000 will be used to purchase a Continuous Mining Simulator to continue the College’s update of its mine training capabilities and to prepare for the creation of a new co-operative coal training program (mining equipment will be housed at the Dickinson Center for Education & Research in Clintwood). The remaining \$86,000 is requested for one year of salary and benefits for an Energy Training Coordinator who will serve as the key contact and industry liaison for MECC’s new energy-related training initiative. The proposal states that 648 Shaw employees will receive training in craft apprenticeships, task-specific training and skill enhancement training, with 75% of the workers projected to complete those trainings.

Total project cost is \$450,000. Other funding: \$50,000-MECC to pay for adjunct instructors teaching at Shaw’s training facility (state funds are budgeted and available); \$100,000-federal financial aid to be leveraged prior to Shaw scholarship funds (projection based on number of workers & estimated need); \$2 million US Dept of Labor grant to be applied for in Fall ‘08.

Staff comments & recommendation: MECC has received two TICR grants to date for this project’s equipment and scholarship needs, totaling \$487,492 (no drawdowns of funds to date). Federal financial aid will assist 176 workers in obtaining a 20-hour career studies certificate, supplemented by an existing TICR grant. To quote the application, “needs are being revealed over time, and will continue to become clearer as we track the skill levels of workers being hired at Shaw and the corresponding need for training.” The application also states that coal training curriculum is not yet complete. Pending the development of programs, demonstrated need for further financial aid, and the result of the USDOL grant application, this request appears to be premature and not an immediate need. **Staff recommends no award.**

Mountain Empire Community College
Scholarships for tobacco Families and AIMS Higher Scholars (#1690)
\$525,000

Funds are requested to continue to award scholarships to tobacco producers, their families and tobacco workers, to continue the AIMS scholarship program for the 2009 cohort of high school graduates, and to provide assistance with dual credit enrollment for high school students. Forty percent of funds (\$210,000) will be awarded in scholarships to tobacco producers, their families, and tobacco workers. Forty eight percent of funds (\$252,000) will be awarded to students qualifying for AIMS Higher Scholarships which will

assist the student with tuition costs for up to 72 credit hours. The remaining twelve percent (\$63,000) will be allocated for the dual credit program.

Total project cost is \$1,048,900. Other funding: \$152,900-State financial aid (COMA, VGAP, PTAP, and CSAP) to be leveraged prior to AIMS Higher funds (projection based on prior years' experience with AIMS Program); \$169,000-Federal financial aid (Pell, SEOG, and FWSP) to be leveraged prior to AIMS Higher funds; \$202,000-MECC -to cover 80% of tuition and fees for dual credit students (budgeted by MECC).

Staff comments & recommendation: MECC staff has provided supplemental information that indicates current unobligated grant balances totaling \$487,916 from three earlier grants (FY06-08) will cover the majority of projected scholarship demand through the Fall '09 semester (when the FY10 Education funds can be sought. Actual AIMS disbursements totaled \$105,000 in '06-07 and \$120,000 in '07-08, and are budgeted at \$155,000 in the current year. Regarding dual enrollment, MECC has for several years offered dual enrollment at local high schools under an agreement wherein MECC bills the school at the standard per credit rate for tuition, then returns 80% of that cost to the school as a reimbursement for the locality providing instructors and use of facilities. The net effect is that the remaining 20% of tuition cost is shared by local schools and parents, allowing students to receive community college credit in their home high school at a greatly reduced cost. This incentive has had the intended positive effect of greatly increasing dual enrollment by high school students in recent years. It should be noted that these students are included in the college's enrollment for purposes of calculating FTEs, and VCCS then provides state support per FTE (\$4,075 per FTE) to the college as a result of dual enrollment. MECC requests funding to continue to expand dual enrollment. The request is presented as a "scholarship" when in fact it appears to reimburse the college for a portion of the tuition cost it is currently returning to the local schools. Staff has requested an operating budget for dual enrollment to see if a funding gap exists in dual enrollment (whether costs exceeds revenues), and has received information from the college that does not allay our concern that this request is a subsidy of ongoing operating costs. Staff is highly supportive of the concept of dual enrollment but does not have sufficient evidence of a funding shortfall to support this element of the MECC request. **Staff recommends award of \$200,000 to fund the AIMS cohort of '09 high school graduates, and to provide gap funding for Fall '09 tobacco scholarships (excluding dual enrollment).**

Mountain Kids, Inc.

Mountain Scholars Career and Technical Education Program (#1680)

\$161,130

Funds are requested to support the Mountain Scholars Career and Technical Education Program which is designed to increase high school graduation and/or GED completion rates, reduce disciplinary problems, increase relevancy of educational activities, and to minimize the number of secondary school dropouts. In the form of small learning communities, Mountain Scholars instructors will supplement instruction in literacy, math, and science, coordinate mentoring and job shadowing opportunities, and implement team building and collaborative learning projects to help students make the connection between school success and career success. The program will serve a cohort of 50 moderately at-risk 9th-12th grade students enrolled in Tazewell County Public Schools.

Total project cost is \$222,482. Other funding: \$32,324- individual donors-no restricted funds (received); \$1,200- private investment-donor-non-restricted funds (received); \$1,500-Norfolk Southern Foundation-non-restricted funds (received); \$2,500-CNX Gas Company-non-restricted funds (pending); \$1,200-Community Foundation of the Virginias for academic supplies for mentoring program (received); \$100,000/year for 4 years-AT&T High School Success Grants for Mountain Scholars Program (pending).

Staff comments & recommendation: This proposal is one of two from Tazewell County using similar approaches to intervene with at-risk high school students. While the proposal has obvious merit for the individuals served, and some demonstrable results from recent graduates, at-risk K-12 youth are not a targeted population in the Strategic Plan and behavioral counseling has not been funded by the Commission to date. In contrast, Commission investments in GED programs have been targeted at the adult population through a regional partnership (see grant #1711). **Staff recommends no award.**

New College Institute

The Center for Tomorrow (#1688) – withdrawn by applicant

Old Dominion University Research Foundation/Virginia Space Grant Consortium *Virginia Aerosphere Science and Technology Scholars (#1692)*

\$101,540

Funding is requested to support the distance-learning participation of 80 high school juniors within the Southside and Southwest tobacco regions in the 2009 Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars program (VASTS) which provides STEM-content experience and the opportunity to compete for a slot at the one-week Summer Academy at NASA Langley in Hampton VA. The Consortium (www.vsgc.ode.edu) was formed in 1989 by NASA and Virginia colleges, universities, educational agencies and science centers (ODURF is the fiscal agent). The Consortium's VASTS program was piloted using NASA funds in 2008 with 43 students (the application states "few applicants" were from tobacco region). Funding would also be used to pay a consultant fee to four master teachers from the regions for monitoring student online coursework and working with Summer Academy mission team, as well as to cover teacher travel, substitute teacher costs and project supplies. Personnel costs are requested for an Education Program Specialist and Program Manager based on number of hours devoted to project. Additionally, funding is requested for travel and printed material for marketing and outreach efforts with TCR school districts. Students would be eligible to receive two college credits (through Thomas Nelson Community College) for completing the distance program and two additional credits for completing the Space Camp. VSCG intends to perform longitudinal tracking over six or more years to follow students' academic and career choices.

Total project cost is \$442,040. Other funding: \$250,000-NASA for online course/200 students, Summer Academy/40 student (committed); \$55,500- private foundations and industry for core program and potential expansion of Summer Academy (committed).

Staff comments & recommendation: Project has merit in encouraging STEM education in partnership with the national space agency and state educational institutions. However nearly half the requested funds are for existing VSGC staff and for ODU indirect charges. Selection of tobacco region students for the summer camp is not guaranteed (they are selected based on performance), and future year funding for tobacco region is dependent on support from the General Assembly and/or the Commission.

Staff recommends no award.

Patrick Henry Community College Foundation (#1682)

Increasing rural Educational Achievement, Technical Certification, and Entrepreneurship

\$510,000

PHCC is requesting funding for several new and ongoing initiatives: **Adult Learning** - support for adult basic education with funding for a math lab tutor coordinator and supplemental instructors (\$25,000), 30

laptop computers to be loaned to adult students enrolled in developmental math who do not have access to a home computer (\$45,000), and compressed video equipment for two-way video and two-way audio to remote sites in Franklin and Patrick counties allowing for students to access remedial instruction at the off-campus sites (\$16,000); a grant writer (\$30,000); **Technical Certification** - equipment for a mechatronics lab to provide additional mechanical and electronics training for ~ 47 students per year (\$320,000); and **Entrepreneurship** - a junior artisan program coordinator to integrate current entrepreneurship classes with existing and new certificate programs in the areas of artisans, specialized agriculture, culinary arts, and hospitality (\$64,000, includes PT grant writer and funds for Small Business Investment Forum business start-up grants).

Total project cost is \$1,250,750. Other funding: \$538,250-Commonwealth of Virginia for faculty positions, contractual services, supplies, and equipment (committed); \$75,000-Patrick and Franklin counties for building space and utilities (committed); \$120,000-PHCC Foundation, Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation and other private donors to be used to support curriculum, SBIF, facilities (committed); \$7,500-Martinsville-Henry County Economic Development Corporation-in-kind support (printing and postage) of SBIF (committed).

Staff comments & recommendations: PHCC has unexpended balances on open grants more than one year old totaling \$306,212. Three new pieces of equipment for the mechatronics/advanced manufacturing lab carry an average economic life of 10 years and will serve ~ 270 students and incumbent employees in that period. The Remedial Education activities will assist 83 students over a three year period, however the purchase of laptops to be loaned to the 25-30 students per year participating in adult learning remedial education seems to warrant purchasing somewhat less than the 30 requested laptops. Junior artisans earn dual enrollment credits toward a career studies certificate. TICR has not to date funded grant writer positions for grantees. Transfer payments offered through the PHCC Small Business Investment Forum have education element but are primarily an economic development function and not a priority for education funding. **Staff recommends award of \$440,000** (excluding 20 laptops, grants writer, and entrepreneurship transfer payments).

Town of Pennington Gap

Lee Theatre Learning Center (#1681)

\$522,140

The Town seeks funding for a 20-month period to continue its renovation of the historic Lee Theater building in downtown Pennington Gap (Lee County). The Lee Theater/ Learning Center will provide a venue for live musical and theatrical performances while also providing space for distance learning activities. Funds are requested to provide ten additional internet stations as well as small items such as ceiling tiles and doors. The majority of the request also reflects the need for heating, air conditioning, electrical and lighting in the building as well as for related engineering and administration costs.

Total project cost is \$1,680,893. Other funding: \$200,000-TICR for acquisition, A/E studies, Phase I renovation design and construction (complete, all funds expended); \$8,250-Town of Pennington Gap to clean out the theater prior to Phase I renovations (completed); \$220,000-TICR requiring dollar for dollar match for structural repair (awarded July 2008); \$109,851-Appalachian Regional Commission for internet stations, seating, signage/furnishings, and projection screen (pending – letter of tentative award received 4/18/08); \$25,000-USDA Rural Development for seating (pending); \$331,021-VA Coalfield EDA to match TICR \$220,000 match and purchase carpet, seating, signage/furnishings, sprinkler system, et. al. (application to be submitted upon notification of other funding); \$25,000-Theater Committee proceeds from local

fundraiser for marquee (\$23,000 collected to-date); \$204,107-Slemp Foundation for wall drapery, stage/theater lights, sprinkler system, projector, et. al (awarded).

Staff comments & recommendation: Building acquisition was assisted by TICR, and completed lobby improvements were unveiled at a September 19 dedication ceremony. Auditorium renovations can not be completed until shoring of the floor system has been completed, which is the intent of the TICR Southwest Economic Development grant awarded this July (the Town must raise a dollar-for-dollar match of that TICR grant). Staff has encouraged the Town to approach other funders, including DHCD which has funded similar projects in the region (e.g. Clintwood's Jettie Baker Center). Education programming and outcomes are promising but still vague, pending further refinement of specific academic plans and agreements by potential educational providers such as community colleges, VECTEC etc.. **Staff recommends no award.**

Rich Valley Agricultural and Fair Association
Rich Valley Community and Education Center (#1714)
\$199,450

Funds are requested for a 17-month period to assist with the completion and equipping of the classroom portion of the existing Rich Valley Community and Education Center in Smyth County. The existing structure is a 9,000 square foot post-frame metal building completed in 2006. It has a sewer system, electrical power, and roughed-in plumbing. TICR funds are requested to complete two classrooms and a larger computer technology classroom which will be used for Adult Basic Education/GED classes, community college classes including distance learning classes, one-on-one literacy classes, and workforce training and re-training classes.

Total project cost is \$518,541. Other funding: \$178,830-US Housing and Urban Development Grant funds used to erect of basic 9,000 sq. ft. metal structure (complete); \$25,000-Smyth county Board of Supervisors for design and partial installation of sewer system; architect's fees (complete); \$3,461-Rich Valley Fair Association for advertising for bids (complete); \$93,000- USDA Rural Development funds used to complete restroom facilities and to provide power to the building (scheduled to begin by mid-August); \$12,500-Rich Valley Farmer's Club to complete installation of sewer system (complete); \$1,300-Charlie Atkins and Carole Pratt for grant preparation (completed) \$5,000-donation of land (completed).

Staff comments & recommendation: Specific education programming and outcomes are not listed, and the facility appears equally poised for general community center use (not a TICR priority). **Staff recommends no award.**

Russell County Public Schools
Honaker Community Library Technology Center (#1718)
\$65,000

Funds are requested to construct an addition to the Honaker Community Library to house a room used for library programs or meetings and a computer lab to allow the general public access to a variety of computer resources including computer skills classes. The project will also include expanding and enhancing the parking area. Funds will also be used for furnishings and equipment for the addition.

Total project cost is \$195,450. Other funding: \$7,000-Library of Virginia for computers, equipment, and furniture (support for operations) (approved); \$30,000-Russell County for construction (\$15,000 allocated

FY09; \$15,000 requested FY10); \$75,000-Estate of C.P. & Elsa Williams for an addition to the Honaker Community Library (funds held by Russell County); \$8,450-Gates Foundation for computer hardware, training and technical support (approved).

Staff comments & recommendation: The library's limited number of computers appear to receive heavy use by community residents for a variety of educational and entertainment purposes. However, construction plans are only conceptual and educational programming with specific class offerings is not expected. **Staff recommends no award.**

Town of Saltville

Saltville Regional Dental Training Facility (#1511)

\$255,330

Funds are requested in this proposal that was tabled and carried over from the FY08 Education cycle to purchase equipment to establish a 15-chair Dental Training Facility to be located in a renovated portion of the former T.K. McKee Hospital in Smyth County. This training facility will be operated by the nonprofit Southwest Virginia Community Health Systems Inc. to provide a site for obtaining clinical experience for a projected 100 dental assistant and dental hygienist students from Wytheville Community College and the Washington County Skill Center, as well as 50 dental students visiting in two-week rotations from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry. These students will also provide affordable dental care to area residents, and will also house a private dental practice.

Total project cost is \$1,824,540. Other funding: \$700,000-Department of Housing and Community Development for construction (2008 application declined, to be re-submitted for 2009 funding cycle); \$224,585-Virginia Healthcare Foundation for architecture and equipment (approved for \$128,802); \$125,000-Virginia Primary Care Association for equipment (application to be submitted in September 2007); \$519,625-USDA Rural Development for construction (pending); \$200,000 DHCD ARC application (pending).

Staff comments & recommendation: Project will primarily provide affordable dental care for area residents, which is not a TICR priority, but will provide required clinical experience for 100 dental hygienists trained in area schools. The proposed operator (SVCHS) is an experienced regional health care provider, however, a majority of construction funding is not yet committed, and it could be mid-to late-2009 before adequate commitments are made to begin construction. **Staff recommends no award.**

Second Chance Learning Center

SCLC Expansion (#1684)

\$50,000

Funds are requested through June 2009 for expansion of two Second Chance Learning Center locations in Tazewell County. SCLC works with students in grades 6-12 in Tazewell County to provide individualized attention for students who are at risk of dropping out of school because of problems with their grades and/or behavioral problems. At SCLC students work one-on-one after school with teachers who provide tutoring assistance. The learning center also provides scholarships to students who meet certain criteria to continue their education in college or trade schools. With the assistance of this grant SCLC will hire three more teachers at each of their two locations to increase the number of students receiving services. They will also increase office equipment and space to accommodate the increase in students. SCLC currently serves 24 students per day and hopes to serve 36 students daily, a net gain of 12.

Total project cost is \$75,269. Other funding: \$25,269-Private Investment-William and Sara Wagner for general expansion expenses (committed).

Staff comments & recommendation: This proposal is one of two from Tazewell County using similar approaches to intervene with at-risk high school students (net new outcomes in this case are low). While the proposal has obvious merit for the individuals served, and some demonstrable results from recent graduates, at-risk K-12 youth are not a targeted population in the Strategic Plan and behavioral counseling has not been funded by the Commission to date. In contrast, Commission investments in GED programs have been targeted at the adult population through a regional partnership (see grant #1711). **Staff recommends no award.**

Southern Virginia Higher Education Center
Digital Audio Visual Instructional Support (DAVIS) Project (#1703)
\$189,950

The SVHEC Center of Nursing Excellence is requesting funds for the DAVIS project which is comprised of digital audio visual equipment, software, and technology to manage, record, track, and integrate instructional simulation scenarios for nursing students being trained using simulation manikins (similar equipment is in use at Radford University). The software package included in DAVIS allows for evaluation and feedback on participant progress and the effectiveness of the patient simulations that are developed and implemented. The equipment is expected to assist the Center in increasing retention rates for nursing students that are historically low across the region and country, as well as assisting students in job placement through the availability of video footage that can be transmitted to prospective employers.

Total project cost is \$294,600. Other funding: \$64,110-Southern Virginia Higher Education Center in-kind equipment to implement the DAVIS project (committed); \$40,000-Halifax Educational Foundation to purchase DAVIS project equipment (committed).

Staff comments & recommendations: TICR has supported this nursing facility with \$669,885 in funding for renovations, equipment and start-up operations. The facility opened this fall with strong initial enrollments in several levels of nursing education. This equipment would unquestionably enhance the effectiveness of the new programs, however the equipment's impact on student participation or retention is largely speculative. **Staff recommends no award.**

Southside Virginia Community College Foundation
Southside Workforce Academy Preparation FY089 (#1695)
\$584,484

SVCC is requesting funding for a 22-month period to support several initiatives: establish the SVCC Allied Health Career Academy to train high school students for entering PN and RN nursing programs (\$53,000); develop, expand, and market the Virginia Center for Onsite Wastewater Training and the Virginia Center for Utility Damage Prevention (\$51,000); purchase equipment to initiate a construction trades program (\$93,484); startup funding for a Cosmetology & Barbering program (\$93,000); Tobacco Scholarships for tobacco farmers and family members and SOAR Program Scholarships for high achieving high school graduates (\$150,000); establish the SCORE Mobile Middle College expanding this program to include an off-campus pilot in one of the poorest communities in the service area, located near Clarksville and home to 85 trailers (\$60,000); and establish a Center for Business Innovation (\$85,000).

Total project cost is \$7,194,964. Other funding: **Initiative #1** \$18,650-SVCC for faculty salaries and administrative oversight (committed); \$4,500-Chase City Community Service Board for overhead in building –utilities (committed); \$71,170-area school systems for tuition and transportation (committed); Area hospitals and health agencies are donating administrative oversight of externships. **Initiative #2** \$52,500-SVCC for administrative overhead, travel, marketing, supplies, utilities and adjunct faculty salaries (committed); \$2,000-Greenville/Emporia-donated utilities (committed); \$3,500-Lake Country Education & Enrichment Center for utilities (committed); \$25,000-Clarksville Ruritan Club for equipment (pledged). **Initiative #3** \$1,279,370-State financial aid programs (Commonwealth, VGAP, PTAP, etc.) for need based student assistance (received for 2007-08; \$5,040,578-Federal financial aid programs (Pell, SEOG, etc.) for need based student assistance (received for 2007-08); \$75,000-SVCC Foundation for scholarships-no tobacco money included (received 2007-08). **Initiative #4** \$14,400-SVCC for administrative overhead, travel, advertising and tuition (committed). **Initiative #5** SVCC-administrative overhead, travel, marketing, supplies & adjunct faculty salaries (committed); \$12,000-Southside Planning District in-kind donation of space and utilities (committed).

Staff comments & recommendations: The majority of these activities are for program start-up funds, one-time equipment expenses or financial aid that targets TICR priorities such as education achievement and career training. However the Cosmetology and Barbering program is not a priority for the Commission as these are not high wage positions, and local tech schools already provide this type of training. Small business development and business incubation are functions of economic development and not a priority for education funding (alternatively, a small business incubator/center could be funded from the Mecklenburg allocation in Southside Economic Development, which currently has an available balance of \$4.2 million). **Staff recommends award of \$407,000 (excluding Cosmetology & Barbering and business innovation center).**

Southwest Virginia Community College ***SVCC Tobacco Outreach Scholarship Program FY09 (#1678)*** **\$550,000**

The majority of funds (\$400,000) are requested to continue the College's scholarship programs for tobacco families and for dislocated, unemployed, underemployed, and educationally disadvantaged students (age 25 or older), as well as students who meet AIMS Scholar Program eligibility. An estimated 285 program-placed tobacco region residents will be served annually by these last-dollar programs. Funds (\$150,000) are also requested to assist with the college's dual enrollment credit program for 600 high school students. SVCC is currently assuming 97% of the cost of the dual credit courses in their service region which will amount to a total expense of over \$400,000 for the current year. The requested amount will help offset that expense.

Total project cost is \$1,045,000. Other funding: \$125,000-State financial aid program (COMA, VGAP, PRAP and CSAP) for scholarships (committed); \$230,000-HETAP, US Dept. of Health-HRSA, National Science Foundation, Academic Competiveness Grant, Federal Work Study Program, PELL and SEOG for scholarships (committed); \$114,000-SVCC Educational Foundation for scholarships (committed).

Staff comments & recommendation: SwVCC has consistently disbursed all scholarship funds in the year awarded, and have not carried over older grants funds from year to year. Regarding dual enrollment, SwVCC has for several years offered dual enrollment at local high schools under an agreement wherein SwVCC bills the school at the standard per credit rate for tuition, then returns 97% of that cost to the school as a reimbursement for the locality providing instructors and use of facilities. The net effect is that the remaining 3% of tuition cost is shared by local schools and parents, allowing students to receive community college credit in their home high school at a greatly reduced cost. This incentive has had the

intended positive effect of greatly increasing dual enrollment by high school students in recent years. It should be noted that these students are included in the college's enrollment for purposes of calculating FTEs, and VCCS then provides state support per FTE (\$3,825 per FTE) to the college as a result of dual enrollment. SwVCC requests funding to continue to expand dual enrollment. The request is presented as a "scholarship" when in fact it appears to reimburse the college for a portion of the tuition cost it is currently returning to the local schools. Staff has requested an operating budget for dual enrollment to see if a funding gap exists in dual enrollment (whether costs exceed revenues), and has received information from the college that does not allay our concern that this request is a subsidy of ongoing operating costs. Staff is highly supportive of the concept of dual enrollment but does not have sufficient evidence of a funding shortfall to support this element of the SwVCC request. **Staff recommends an award of \$300,000 for general, tobacco and AIMS scholarships (excluding dual enrollment).**

Southwest Virginia Community College
SVCC Construction Academy (#1679)
\$438,689

Funds (\$358,000) are requested to remodel the Physical Plant and Davis Hall on the campus of Southwest Virginia Community College to accommodate space requirements for a Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training and to provide space of additional construction trades training (new programs in plumbing, masonry and carpentry will be created in the space). Funds (\$80,689) are also requested to provide tuition and book assistance for 70 additional students in existing construction trades programs (welding, HVAC and electrical).

Total project cost is \$2,814,903. Other funding: \$111,752-SVCC, Appalachian Detention Center, VA Wilderness Institute, WIA/Clinch Valley Community Action for tuition/fees, CTA coordinator salary/fringes (partial), building usage, counseling, materials, workshops, and resources for participants, tuition for detainees, training (committed); \$2,083,173-Carl Perkins Vocational Act, DOL Community-Based job training program, PELL financial aid, SWVA tech prep for CTA coordinator (90%) and student liaison (100%) salary/fringes, adjunct faculty salaries (100%), travel, evaluator expenses, supplies and materials, and tuition and fees (committed); \$65,500-Southwest Contractors, Triple H Construction, Betty Corte, J.A. Street construction for apprenticeships, training supplies and materials, and scholarships (committed); \$160,789-7 construction employees, SVCC Dean of Business and Deal of Engineering, SWVA Tech Prep, SVCC Small Business Center, and SVCC (committed).

Staff comments & recommendation: The targeted trades appear to be in great demand by several area employers that provided letters of support for the proposal. Several alternative sources of scholarship assistance appear to be committed to the project, and staff believes a majority of the labor for renovations can be accomplished through donated services by participating employers or as student training projects. **Staff recommends award of \$205,000 for renovation materials and equipment only.**

Southwest Virginia Education and Training Network
RALI - Rural Appalachian Learning Initiative (#1324)
\$819,250

Funds are requested by the nonprofit regional technology coalition as a substitute applicant for this proposal that was initially submitted by Wise County Schools and was tabled in the FY08 Education cycle. The revised proposal now seeks to purchase updated video conferencing and related equipment linking nine city/county school districts and three colleges, which will allow for expanded distance learning and

professional development opportunities. This project will increase the ability of regional high schools to offer advanced dual enrollment courses. The project anticipates that more than 2,300 high school students per year will benefit from this initiative, representing a 77% increase over current enrollment. Funds will assist in providing equipment for additional interactive classrooms at high school campuses, to install campus-wide wireless infrastructure, to purchase laptops for students, to purchase wireless mobile computer labs, and for other non-specific technology infrastructure enhancements.

Total project cost is \$1,239,421. Other funding: \$420,171 from the following localities for equipment:

	Cash	In-Kind	Total
Buchanan County Schools	6,250	6,250	12,500
Dickenson County Schools	18,750	5,000	23,750
Lee County Schools	5,972	5,000	10,972
Mountain Empire Community College	12,500	14,500	27,000
Norton City Schools	7,000	5,360	12,360
Russell County Schools	18,750	9,000	27,750
Scott County Schools	37,500	14,750	52,250
Southwest Virginia Community College	0	7,500	7,500
Tazewell County Schools	25,000	9,000	34,000
UVa-Wise	25,000	8,000	33,000
Virginia Highland Community College	0	13,160	13,160
Washington County Schools	0	7,429	7,429
Wise County Schools	150,000	8,500	158,500
Total	\$306,722	\$113,449	\$420,171

The funding for this project will be obtained from the Tobacco Commission and the project partners themselves with the Southwest Virginia Education and Training Network (DSVETN) serving as the fiscal agent. SVETN will use grant funds, linked where indicated with matching local dollars, to purchase equipment resources requested by the partnering entities. Alternately, grant partners may purchase equipment directly from pre-approved state contacts or other competitive mechanisms and submit copies of delivery receipts and paid invoices to SVETN for eventual reimbursement from grant funds.

Staff comments & recommendation: SVETN received a \$1.5 million Technology grant in August 2005 to upgrade interactive classroom equipment, a project that is nearing completion. Several of the schools requesting these funds benefitted from that grant, and are now seeking additional equipment with different technology and capabilities. The project will enhance access to dual enrollment and Advanced Placement classes and net gains in students served are projected by each locality. However, more than one-third of the funds and benefits accrue to two localities (Wise and Scott Counties), and some of the schools were not specific in requesting additional “technology equipment/infrastructure,” while others requested items are of a more general nature in terms of computer use (e.g. laptops and wireless infrastructure) rather than specific equipment that is essential for access to higher education in interactive classrooms. Staff suggests the proposal should be revised and re-submitted with only essential interactive classroom equipment included, with requested funds limited to those schools where there is demonstrated need and demand for additional equipment. **Staff recommends no award.**

University of Virginia's College at Wise Foundation, Inc.
VoIP System Implementation and Educational Initiative (#1693)
\$798,225

Funds are requested to support the implementation of a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) telephone and digital communication system throughout the UVA-Wise campus. The system is designed for the transmission of voice through packet-switched local and wide area networks. The College campus is currently served by an aging telephony system and a VoIP system will allow it to leverage new technology to improve internal and external communications while allowing the software engineering faculty and students to research and develop new applications for this technology for open use to the College as well as regional business and industry through open source licensing. This equipment will serve 15-25 graduates annually through in the computer science, software engineering, mathematics, and MIS programs. The equipment will also serve 20-25 participants per month through the Center for Emerging Technology Learning and 200 annually during the UVa-Wise Technology Symposium.

Total project cost is \$942,845. Other funding: \$5,000-UVa-Wise; \$139,620-In-kind UVa-Wise for internal management and leadership by staff on project (committed)

Staff comments & recommendation: An FY06 Special Projects grant of \$550,000 assisted the university with on-campus broadband wiring. This request, which was declined by the Technology Committee in FY08, entails a general capital improvement project for the campus that will enhance the quality of university's technology environment, but cites modest and speculative outcomes in terms of education, employment and business development. A grant award would initiate a precedent for funding general campus technology improvements at a wide array of educational institutions. **Staff recommends no award.**

University of Virginia
Engineers: PRODUCED in Virginia (#1699)
\$3,291,600

Revised and reduced one-year funding in the amount of \$656,000 is requested for continued support to establish Associate of Science in Engineering (ASE) and Bachelor of Science in Engineering (BSE) degrees in Southside and Southwest Virginia. Project activities would include the creation of a full-time engineering faculty position at CVCC, DCC, and VHCC to provide engineering classes on campus and through distance learning to the campuses of PHCC, SVCC, MECC, SWCC, and WCC. PRODUCED is designed to allow students to obtain an ASE at their home community college at VCCS tuition rates, and then per an articulation agreement the student can continue enroll in 3rd and 4th year UVA classes for the BSE at the community college without leaving home. Engineering specializations would be tailored to regional industry and employment clusters such as nuclear at CVCC, mining at VHCC, nano at DCC etc. Funding is also requested to hire a full-time program coordinator for IALR and SwVHEC to assist with student recruitment and corporate engagement. UVA also requests summer faculty support for course development (and to redesign classes to be offered in a distance format); full-time instructional designer and media specialists to assist with instructional design and support broadcasts; adjunct faculty to support faculty assigned to project; an administrative assistant for handling records for PRODUCED students; and software licenses. Previous TICR funding of \$524,800 (received by UVA through a subcontract from a FY07 Education grant to IALR) is being used for course development, programmatic support and nanotechnology lab equipment (those funds are expected to be fully expended by August 15, 2009). The program is expected to graduate 175 students with an ASE in 2011 and 120 students with a BSE in 2012.

Total project cost is \$8,571,000. Other funding: \$100,000/year (\$300,000 total over TIC grant life)-UVA for general project support; \$1,900 –UVA (pending-dependent upon project enrollment & tuition @ UVA); \$300,000-Office of the Governor for scholarships and lab renovation (committed); \$1,150,000-National Science Foundation STEP program for scholarships and student services support (committed); \$200,000-National Science Foundation NUE program for course development (recommended for funding-approval pending); \$100,000-National Science Foundation CCLI program to support wireless curriculum development (recommended for funding-approval pending); \$50,000-USDA Distance Learning program for engineering distance course development for community colleges (planned request for Spring 2009); \$50,000-Micron Foundation for general program support (committed); \$25,000- various companies in Lynchburg for tuition, books and fees (committed); \$150,000-Perry Foundation for instructional technology facility construction at UVA (planned request in Fall of 2008).

Staff comments & recommendation: The revised/reduced budget submitted by UVA includes 45% of the requested funds being spent in tobacco region and the balance at UVA. The proposed program has been developed with strong input and involvement by TICR-funded educational partners in the tobacco region, including IALR, SwVHEC, community colleges and major area employers such as Areva in Lynchburg. Average starting salary for a new engineer with a BSE is \$50,000. **Staff recommends award of \$656,000.**

Virginia Council on Economic Education

Ensuring Economic Development Through Economic Education (#1701)

\$190,526

Funds are requested for staff at three university-based centers who will offer teacher workshops to enhance K-12 educator understanding of basic economic principles and personal finance in order to improve their ability to teach these concepts. Participants will receive recertification credits. The requested funds will allow the Council to convert existing part-time staff to full-time positions at university-based centers for economic education at Longwood, Lynchburg College, and Virginia Tech. The majority of the TICR funding is requested for contractual services with the university-based centers to build and enhance relationships with the school divisions.

Total project cost is \$314,039. Other funding: \$150,000-Longwood University for instructional support (committed); \$4,015-Campbell County Public Schools for professional development support (committed); \$94,668-VCEF for infrastructural support to include administration and procurement of financial and non-financial commitment and support toward development of ongoing partnerships (to be raised in FY09); \$4,220-Lynchburg City Public Schools for professional development (committed); \$4,455-Bedford County Public Schools for professional development (committed); \$1,155-Appomattox County Public Schools for professional development (committed).

Staff comments & recommendations: The centers supported through this project appear to serve school divisions outside the tobacco region, though the applicant commits that TICR funds will only be spent on tobacco region schools. Future-year funding is uncommitted, and support for non-degree K-12 programs such as financial literacy have merit but are not a priority for the Commission. An existing center located in the tobacco region at UVA-Wise is not included in the proposal due to resource constraints. **Staff recommends no award.**

Virginia Early Childhood Foundation
Southside/Southwest School Readiness Initiative (#1697)
\$900,000

Funds are requested by the statewide nonprofit (see www.smartbeginnings.org) to implement the nationally-recognized Smart Beginnings early childhood strategies for education, childcare, health and human services across all eleven planning districts within the tobacco region. VECF proposes that TICR funds would be matched dollar-for-dollar with VECF resources to conduct needs assessments in each planning district, initiate public/private partnerships, and begin program implementation strategies for improving kindergarten readiness in three districts that have already been granted VECF funds for planning processes (West Piedmont, and tobacco region portions of Region 2000 and Roanoke). With technical assistance from VECF, local partners will develop comprehensive plans for coordinating services and funding, implementation of best practices, parent education and improved health and mental services. VECF was funded by the General Assembly and private foundations to work in partnership with the State Office of Early Childhood Development to implement Virginia's Plan for Smart Beginnings. VECF has initiated funding to sixteen jurisdictions across the Commonwealth, and cites the results observed in North Carolina's Smart Start program that was established in 1993, as well as early efforts within other Virginia areas (e.g. Northside Richmond) that have already demonstrated significant improvements in school readiness indicators in less than three years. This request is proposed to be a first step toward a multi-year funding collaboration by TICR and VECF (future TICR requests could total \$3 million). The current request primarily seeks funds to provide grants to local leadership councils to implement Smart Beginnings Initiatives. It additionally seeks funds personnel and operating expenses to hire and equip two VECF staff to serve as coordinators based in tobacco region.

Total project cost is \$2,440,000. Other funding: \$900,000-VECF for needs assessments, strategic planning, and staffing (committed); \$640,000-Local matches for needs assessments, strategic planning and staffing (\$540,000 committed in 3 regions-waivers may reduce totals).

Staff comments & recommendation: This proposed partnership represents a substantial policy shift by the Commission to a longer-horizon, coordinated partnership for investing in regional programs and facilities that serve the pre-kindergarten school readiness needs of nearly 68,000 children in the tobacco region. Longitudinal studies are a primary element of this request and the Smart Beginnings approach, providing near- and longer-term assessment of improvements in nationally-recognized school readiness measures (see www.GettingReady.org). While some returns on an investment in this project would be observable within a few years, ultimately this represents an opportunity – as do the Commission's scholarship programs - to positively effect the academic and career achievement of the tobacco region population over the next half-century or more. **Staff recommends an award of \$900,000.**

Virginia Highlands Community College
Hospitality and Tourism Program Revitalization and Enhancement (#1708)
\$95,000

Funds are requested for two years to hire a part time Program Advocate to raise awareness about VHCC's existing Hospitality and Tourism degree program. This program was established in 2006, however interest from potential students has been very limited, and enrollment in the program has been insufficient to begin offering classes. The College feels that the difficulty with enrollment lies with the lack of awareness by the public, and in particular high school graduates, concerning the career opportunities in this field. The Program Advocate would be charged with enhancing student interest in the Hospitality and Tourism program through increased marketing, recruitment, business partner involvement, providing services to

collaborating business partners, and creating student work-based learning opportunities leading to a sufficient student enrollment to make the program self-sustaining. The applicant seeks to recruit 20 new students into the program for each of 4 semesters for a total of 80 students served within the grant period.

Total project cost is \$150,000. Other funding: \$8,000 VCCS to support project-based learning secondary- and post-secondary partnership (committed); \$13,000-Highlands Tech Prep Consortium and Post-secondary Perkins for career coach salaries, resource materials, job data base, and placement (committed); \$22,000-VHCC for faculty, facility, office, phone, fiscal management, and equipment expenses (committed); \$15,000-In-kind personnel time/services; \$5,000-NSF Grant to support project-based learning in collaboration with IT (pending).

Staff comments & recommendation: Projected enrollment outcomes are modest and while earning potential for degree-possessing students is modestly better than those without, these career paths have not to date been targeted by the Commission as a priority for funding (TICR support of tourism to date has focused on the development of destination attractions to increase visitation). Sustainability is dependent on expanded enrollment that generates sufficient tuition revenues to fund instructional costs as well as this position. **Staff recommends no award.**

Virginia Highlands Community College ***VHCC Welding Lab (#1709)*** **\$257,872**

Funds are requested to develop a welding training laboratory at Virginia Highlands Community College to provide additional training to welding students from the Washington County Skill Center and VHCC. The facility will also provide contract training to local companies. Existing space will be renovated in the Occupational Technical Center on VHCC campus to accommodate the welding lab which will be equipped with state of the art equipment. A Career Studies Certificate in advanced welding will be developed. The lab will accommodate 15 students per credit class.

Total project cost is \$331,713. Other funding: \$73,814-Virginia Highlands Community College in-kind donation of facility usage and annual budget to marketing welding lab and certificate (in use).

Staff comments & recommendation: The applicant was unable to provide data regarding demand for the planned pipe-welding classes, net new students served by this facility, intent to train to national industry certifications, current unfilled openings for welders at area employers, or detailed operating budget and construction quotes. The Commission has previously supported the purchase of equipment for a robotic welding lab at the nearby Smyth County Career and Technical Center, which is available to VHCC students. **Staff recommends no award.**

Virginia Highlands Community College ***Scholarships for Tobacco Families and AIMS Higher Scholars (\$1710)*** **\$500,000**

Funds are requested to award up to 210 VHCC Tobacco Scholarships for enrollment in VHCC credit courses for Summer Term '09, Fall Semester '09, and Spring Semester '10 (a total of \$260,000). Funds will also be used to award up to 60 AIMS scholarships to eligible 2009 area high school graduates for VHCC academic years 2009-10 and 2010-11 (\$180,000). The remaining funds (\$60,000) will be allocated for dual credit assistance which will serve approximately 400 students.

Total project cost is \$1,136,877. Other funding: \$115,000-State Financial Aid Programs (COMA, VGAP, PTAP, and CSAP) to be used for student scholarships prior to AIMS Higher awards (projected based on prior year's experience with AIMS); \$120,000-Federal Financial Aid Programs (Pell, SEOG, and FWSP) to be used for student scholarships prior to AIMS Higher awards (projected based on prior year's experience with AIMS); \$351,877-VHCC to cover up to 80% of tuition and fees for dual credit students (budgeted); \$50,000-VHCC Educational Foundation for endowment (to be raised by June 2010).

Staff comments & recommendation: VHCC has consistently disbursed the majority of scholarship funds in the year awarded, and have not typically carried over substantial balances of older grants funds from year to year. However, a \$151,000 balance remains available from an FY07 grant that was awarded of the '07-08 year, AIMS scholars and Fast Track IT scholarships. Regarding dual enrollment, VHCC has for several years offered dual enrollment at local high schools under an agreement wherein VHCC bills the school at the standard per credit rate for tuition, then returns 85% of that cost to the school as a reimbursement for the locality providing instructors and use of facilities. The net effect is that the remaining 15% of tuition cost is shared by local schools and parents, allowing students to receive community college credit in their home high school at a greatly reduced cost. This incentive has had the intended positive effect of greatly increasing dual enrollment by high school students in recent years. It should be noted that these students are included in the college's enrollment for purposes of calculating FTEs, and VCCS then provides the standard state support per FTE (\$3,952 per FTE) to the college as a result of dual enrollment. VHCC requests funding to continue to expand dual enrollment. The request is presented as a "scholarship" when in fact it appears to reimburse the college for a portion of the tuition cost it is currently returning to the local schools. Staff has requested an operating budget for dual enrollment to see if a funding gap exists in dual enrollment (whether costs exceed revenues), and has received information from the college that does not allay our concern that this request is a subsidy of ongoing operating costs. Staff is highly supportive of the concept of dual enrollment but does not have sufficient evidence of a funding shortfall to support this element of the VHCC request. **Staff recommends an award of \$250,000 for tobacco and AIMS scholarships (excluding dual enrollment).**

Virginia Intermont College

The Tourism Program at Virginia Intermont College (#1713)

\$238,700

Funds are requested to support the College's new tourism concentration which was launched in the Fall 2008 semester within the College's BBA program. The program is estimated to cost \$257,000 during its first two years of operation. Grant funds are requested over the next two years, after which time the continuation of the program would be funded through the College's general operating budget. Funds are requested to support the Program Director, to provide scholarships for tourism students as well as travel support for tourism courses. Funds are also requested for a Smart Classroom and for program marketing materials. Funds will also be used to provide support to the Tourism Advisory Board, for job shadowing/ internships opportunities for students, and for web site preparation. Classes could additionally be available at VI's satellite locations throughout Southwest VA, in support of the region's burgeoning tourism industry, and an articulation/partnership agreement with VHCC's hospitality/tourism program is being discussed.

Total project cost is \$257,500. Other funding: \$3,000 annually-Private donations from local business, individuals, and the Tourism Advisory Board (anticipated); Foundations-the advancement office is currently researching grant opportunities through private and public foundations to support the tourism program and offer scholarship support for interested students; \$333,900-Student tuition \$22,260 each from approx. 15 students per year to support general operation expenses (projected)

Staff comments & recommendation: This is one of several requests in recent years from a single institution requesting scholarships funding for a single specific program (the Commission has declined these proposals, and in this case scholarships are not stated as limited to tobacco region residents). Enrollment projections are modest, and while earning potential for degree-possessioning students is somewhat better than those without, these career paths have not to date been targeted by the Commission as a priority for funding (TICR support of tourism to date has focused on the development of destination attractions to increase visitation). The attached operating budget appears to show that projected enrollment is sufficient to cover instructional costs. The cited matching funds are not yet committed. **Staff recommends no award.**

VirginiaFIRST

VirginiaFIRST – Increasing Understanding of Math, Science and Technology in the tobacco regions of Virginia (#1696)

\$111,100

The FIRST program is a year-long program of team competitions for middle and high school students using robotic platforms to solve design challenges. Second year funding (following an FY08 grant) is requested to expand the FIRST program to serve 4 new school districts, with each district implementing 3 programs each. Ten veteran Southside/Southwest FIRST teams who received TICR support last year will receive additional funds to provide mentoring and leadership to the new teams. A total of 400 students, 40 adult mentors and 60 community/industry volunteers will participate in the program. TICR funds are requested for workshops, teacher stipends, travel, team registration fees, tournament funding and outreach. Funding will also be used for supplies, materials and equipment needed to build the robot and practice elements.

Total project cost is \$450,000. Other funding: \$TBD-NASA for school support for rookie teams (pending); \$75,000-Participating Public Schools for travel, food, facility, uniforms, parts, lodging, and shipping (pending); \$225,000 between \$1,000-\$10,000 per school-Various Corporate Sponsorships for tools, machine shop time, mentor time, and kit parts (matching funds – pending); \$5,000-\$10,000-FIRST to support schools that have funding gaps.

Staff comments & recommendation: FIRST received an FY08 Education grant of \$76,000, of which a balance of approximately \$33,000 remains available for use in the 2008-09 school year (funds have been well-managed and targeted for use entirely within the tobacco region). This nationally-affiliated program provides a well-recognized and valuable STEM experience for K-12 students. However, it does not provide a workforce credential that has been a priority of Education funding. **Staff recommends no award.**

Wise Workforce Center

Wise Workforce Youth Build Program (#1716)

\$197,560

Funds are requested to continue the Youth Build Program to participants in Lee, Scott, Wise, and Dickenson Counties as well as the City of Norton. The program, through collaboration with Lonesome Pine Office on Youth and Regional Adult Education provides a holistic counseling approach to 18-24 year old participants to support the completion of a GED. In addition, the participants become trained in construction skills using NCCER standards, while completing the Wise Workforce Center's Workforce Certificate, which includes a job search. The program then assists participants in obtaining and maintaining self-sufficient employment through Youth Build follow up services. The program will serve 10 new students and complete training for 6 current students

Total project cost is \$226,560. Other funding: \$29,000-In-kind from various sources.

Staff comments & recommendation: This program of coordinated services and on-the-job training has demonstrated a life-changing impact for the small number of graduates to date (12 GEDs granted since program inception in 2006). Federal funding for the local program expired after two years of operation, and TICR is being approached to continue operations and move program management to the Wise Workforce Center. Outcome numbers are low and the requested positions appear to be victims of cuts from other funding sources. TICR investments in GED have been targeted to regional approaches such as grant proposal #1711. **Staff recommends no award.**

Wytheville Community College

Wytheville Community College's HVAC Program at the Crossroads Institute (#1686) **\$141,882**

Funds are requested to equip a new HVAC lab space at the Crossroads Institute in Galax, and to fund a faculty position during the first year of implementing the College's HVAC Technicians' program at the Institute. The project will initially train 20 HVAC technicians per year by implementing a Career Studies Certificate in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration. This will qualify the participant for an entry level position in HVAC with career pathway opportunities of earning wages greater than the average median income (\$33,000) for the college's service region. It is estimated that at least 90% of the program's graduates will be placed within local industries (a regional study cites the need for 408 HVAC technicians in the region by 2014). The proposed program will complement WCC's current offerings in carpentry, electrical and plumbing at Crossroads.

Total project cost is \$181,882. Other funding: \$40,000 in-kind-WCC \$12,000 classroom lease; \$19,000 program administration costs (allocated).

Staff comments & recommendation: WCC currently offers HVAC classes at its Wytheville campus, so instructional and administrative capacity appears to exist within the college to implement this program. The equipment budget request is well-detailed, and the average life of the equipment is seven years, which translates into 140 students served over that period. **Staff recommends award of \$71,882 for equipment at the new Galax location.**

Wytheville Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.

Wytheville Community College's Forging Future Scholarship Program (#1683) **\$350,000**

Funds are requested for a new scholarship program designed to provide scholarship awards for eligible Wytheville Community College students residing in Carroll County, Grayson County, eastern Smyth County (Marion and eastward), and the City of Galax. The program would serve approximately 250 students annually and will provide assistance with tuition and fees expenses that are not covered through other financial aid programs, scholarships, or grants. Students in Wythe and Bland Counties are currently provided scholarship funds from the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation, however this program, which provides full tuition scholarships to all eligible students, is limited to students from the two counties. The funds requested in this application would help provide similar assistance for students from the remaining areas of the college's service region.

Total project cost is \$359,762. Other funding: \$9,762 in-kind-WCC for personnel costs for program administration (allocated).

Staff comments & recommendation: This proposed program will be administered using established guidelines for WCC's current Wythe/Bland scholarships, which are highly consistent with TICR objectives (last-dollar, need-based, degree track, student must maintain 2.0 gpa, no funds for books). This request for one year of scholarship assistance represents a potential precedent for annually funding financial aid at an eighth community college within the tobacco region. Ultimately, it could stimulate higher rates of education achievement and degree completion in a severely economically-impacted region of the Commonwealth.

Staff recommends an award of \$200,000. ■