

FY10 Education

Staff Summaries & Recommendations – October 2009

The Commission received 30 proposals for FY10 Education funds by the August 24th due date (plus one project referred from Southwest Committee) requesting more than \$11 million. The Committee has a balance from the FY10 budget and carried forward funds of \$8,522,859. Assuming the Committee obligates \$4.75 million to continue the four-year scholarship programs, a balance of \$3.8million would be available for the following competitive grant proposals.

#	Organization Name	Project Title	Request Amount	Staff recommendation
1885	Bluefield College	Bluefield College Rural Healthcare Education Program	\$190,000	\$85,000
1869	Central Virginia Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.	Culinary Arts Careers for Virginia's Region 2000	\$250,873	\$230,000
1935	Community Foundation of the Dan River Region	National Fund for Workforce Solutions - Dan River Region Collaborative	\$200,000	Reserve Fund
1939	Crater Regional Partnership	Skill Streams For Success - a Workforce Development Program	\$110,000	\$35,000
1930	Danville Community College	New and Emerging Technology Education	\$370,204	\$39,204
1933	Danville Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.	Danville Community College Student Training and Scholarships	\$465,000	\$364,000
1913	Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine	Tobacco Region Medical Education Loan Repayment and Placement Program	\$1,000,000	\$0
1932	County of Franklin	The Franklin Center for Advanced Learning and Enterprise Lower Level Completion Project	\$596,400	Southside Economic Development
1938	Town of Glade Spring	Peery Development Center - Glade Springs, Virginia	\$275,725	\$0
1870	Greensville County	Southside Virginia Education Center - Phase II Employee Enhancement Center	\$500,000	Table
1927	Institute for Advanced Learning and Research	Workforce Training to Improve STEM Capacity	\$290,428	\$125,000
1940	Institute for Teaching through Technology & Innovative Practices & Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium (ITTIP)	Synergize Southside Virginia: Seeds of Change for Economic Development - Core Implementation I	\$1,319,108	\$0
1909	Lonesome Pine Office on Youth	The Crooked Road's Apprenticeship and Mountain Music Camp	\$149,000	\$0

1928	Lynchburg College	Central Virginia Regional Health Sciences Simulation and Virtual Learning Center	\$259,434	\$200,000
1914	Mount Rogers Regional Adult Education Program	Southwest Virginia RACE to GED	\$165,000	\$75,000
1873	Mountain Empire Community College	Scholarships for tobacco Families and AIMS Higher Scholars	\$500,000	\$300,000
1941	Mountain Empire Community College	Alternative Energy Training Program Development	\$110,091	\$110,090
1883	Patrick Henry Community College Foundation	Meeting Regional Workforce Needs	\$555,447	\$435,410
1929	Radford University	Radford University Doctorate of Nursing Practice	\$430,000	\$0
1936	Russell County Public Library	Honaker Community Library Computer Lab	\$54,870	\$0
1937	South Central Area Health Education Center	Workforce Preparation for Jobs in Healthcare	\$180,000	\$0
1926	Southside Virginia Community College Foundation	Southside Workforce Academy Preparation FY10	\$473,140	\$450,000
1875	Southwest Virginia Community College	Creating Green Collar Jobs in Southwest Virginia	\$422,000	\$0
1894	Southwest Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing	Manufacturing Career Outreach (referred from SWED)	\$217,500	\$0
1876	Southwest Virginia Community College	SWCC Tobacco Outreach Scholarship Program FY10	\$563,040	\$350,000
1931	University of Virginia	Engineers PRODUCED in Virginia	\$705,000	\$530,000
1912	Virginia Highlands Community College	Scholarships for Tobacco Families and AIMS Higher Scholars	\$400,000	\$350,000
1923	VirginiaFIRST	Workforce Pipeline Initiative in Southside and Southwest Virginia	\$155,000	\$0
1924	Washington County Adult Skill Center	Diesel Truck Technician	\$28,000	\$0
1884	Wytheville Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.	Wytheville Community College Forging Futures Scholarship Program	\$200,000	\$150,000
1934	Wytheville Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.	Wytheville Community College Workforce Licensure Assistance Program	\$44,150	\$0

Grand Totals (31 items)

\$11,179,410

\$3,828,704

Available Balance

\$8,578,704

\$0

Bluefield College

Bluefield College Rural Healthcare Education Program (#1885)

\$190,000 requested

Funds are requested to develop an accelerated baccalaureate nursing degree program (BSN) to serve the Southwest region. The BSN will be a 15 month combination program of face to face classes, synchronous distance-learning and online educational opportunities. Assistance is requested to hire a program director and assistant director to design curriculum, pursue state and national certifications, and to continue to develop critical partnerships with associate and diploma RN programs in SWVA as well as to serve as the initial faculty for the program. Funds are also requested for marketing materials, office equipment/supplies and legal/technical expenses. Wytheville Community College and Southwest Community College have signed Memorandums of Understanding to support the BSN program at campus and off campus locations. Additional projected start-up sites include the Bluefield College Campus, the Booth Center in Grundy, and the WCC center in Smyth County. The application projects that a minimum of 60 students will be enrolled after the first three recruitment cycles.

Total project cost is \$605,630. Other funds include: \$100,000 Statewide Funds for Optional Activities under the WIA to fund consulting expenses for the remainder of the Rural Healthcare Program (pending review from workforce Cabinet in Nov. 2009); \$315,630 Bluefield College as resources for salaries, benefits, and program operations (expended as needed).

Staff comments and recommendation: The project was submitted in FY09 and passed by due to lack of formalized commitments with regional partners. The College has subsequently secured the MOUs cited above, and cites studies indicating 145 nursing position openings per year through 2014 in Workforce Investment Act regions 1 and 2. Curriculum is not yet designed or accredited, and that is arguably the most critical function of the program director position that the Commission has supported for other tobacco region institutions (e.g. Longwood University in FY08 Education). **Staff recommends award of \$85,000 to fund one year for program director position.**

Central Virginia Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.

Culinary Arts Careers for Virginia's Region 2000 (#1869)

\$250,873 requested

The 2008 Virginia General Assembly provided a \$1.488 million appropriation to support a new building at CVCC to house a culinary arts program. The building is currently under design, and construction is scheduled to be completed by spring 2010. Approval of the curriculum for the culinary arts program is expected in spring 2010 including a Career Studies Certificate (37 credit hours) and an Associates of Applied Science Degree in Culinary Arts and Management (69 credits hours). TICR funds are requested to support the first year salary of a program director (\$70,000), furnishing and equipment (\$158,873), and kitchen accessories for the training (\$22,000). Annual cohorts of 20 students for each program will begin fall all 2010.

Total project cost is \$2,088,873. Other funds include: \$1,488,000 General Assembly appropriation 2009; \$350,000 Region 2000 localities for site development (approved).

Staff comments and recommendation: CVCC has received TICR support totaling more than \$4.5 million since the inception of the Commission, primarily for equipment but also spread to programs, scholarships and facilities. Culinary employment opportunities were addressed by a 2005 survey and program feasibility study, where area restaurant/business owners identified that they expected to hire 506 full-time and 330 part-time cooks over the next three years; and 623 full-time and 386 part-time cooks over the next three to six years. The program is supported by an industry advisory group representing the region's many institutional food service providers, including colleges and hospitals. The cost of the program to participants is approximately one-tenth

the cost to attend a national culinary institute in Charlotte NC. Staff notes the request could be reduced by cutting funds for artwork, shipping costs and contingencies. **Staff recommends award of \$230,000 contingent on all necessary approvals of the program curriculum.**

Community Foundation of the Dan River Region

National Fund for Workforce Solutions – Dan River Region Collaborative (#1935)

\$200,000 requested

The DRRC is one of two rural sites in the U.S. working with the National Fund for Workforce Solutions (NFWS) to develop innovative workforce solutions focused on workforce partnerships and building regional capacity. The collaborative region includes Halifax, Pittsylvania, Patrick, and Henry Counties and the Cities of Martinsville and Danville. The first year of program funding is being used for the first primary area of focus “Green Skills” development and will be used specifically to provide energy auditor training and green construction and remediation of residential and commercial facilities training. Funds are requested to support the 2nd year of funding for a portion of the match required by the national funders and will focus on at least one of two other primary areas of focus identified by the collaborative – health care and advanced manufacturing.

Total project cost is \$200,000. Other funds include: \$150,000 Danville Regional Foundation to be used as needed in collaborative budget (awarded for 2009/2010); \$125,000 Harvest Foundation to be used as need in collaborative budget (awarded for 2009/2010); \$5,000 Community Foundation for the Dan River Region to be used as needed in collaborative budget (awarded for 2009/2010); \$100,000 National Fund for Workforce Solutions to be used as needed in collaborative budget (pending local match).

Staff comments and recommendation: This project was initiated with support from a \$200,000 grant from FY09 Education. The NFWS requirement to raise \$4 for every national grant dollar qualifies this request for the Commission’s new Reserve Fund program. **Staff recommends request be referred to Reserve Fund to fill the remaining required match to obtain NFWS funds for year two.**

Crater Regional Partnership

Skill Streams For Success – a Workforce Development Program (#1939)

\$110,000 requested

This project supports the “Skill Streams for Success” workforce development program projecting basic skill assessment and job training programs for youth and adults. Funds will be used to provide the WorkKeys assessment and Virginia Career Readiness Certificate at no cost to 320 participating students at Dinwiddie and Sussex County High Schools. Funds also requested for instructor costs to deliver CNA nursing and basic computer skills classes in Wakefield (36 and 40 students respectively), for tuition to a private truck driver training school (4 students), and for contracted project administration by community college staff (scheduling, counseling, training).

Total project cost is \$192,154. Other funds include: \$72,154 (in-kind) John Tyler Community College for management office space support and computer lab upgrades (committed and in-hand); \$10,000 Crater Regional Partnership for printing, supplies, media, and management training and support (committed and in-hand).

Staff comments and recommendation: The project includes programs supported under eight previous TICR grants from FY01-09. While this is a good example of prioritizing specific workforce training programs within a planning district and community college service area that has historically received small annual amounts of

Education funds, there is no evidence of sustainability beyond future TICR requests. The letter of support from Sussex Central High School identified that the Work Keys assessment was being conducted as a substitute test for the Writing SOL. The cost of tuition charged by the private truck driver trainer is twice that charged by SVCC at its Emporia site (\$3,995 versus approx. \$1,800). The program budget lists more than \$32,000 for program management by community college staff (acting as private contractors). The Education program has supported basic computer skills training on a broad regional basis in the past (e.g. TekXam and previous Skillstreams grants). However, the number of basic computer skills requests in this cycle (four, including IALR, Glade Spring Peery Center and Russell County Library) make a case that basic computer skills classes that do not offer a critical workforce credential are now more ubiquitous and should not a high priority for the Commission. Nursing and truck driver training programs have the strongest connection to immediate employment opportunities in the region. **Staff recommends \$35,000 for direct instructional costs associated with nursing and truck driver training, contingent on truck driver training not exceeding \$1,800 per participant.**

Danville Community College
New and Emerging Technology Education (#1930)
\$370,204 requested

Funds are requested for scholarships, staff, equipment, supplies, marketing and professional development travel to create a new photovoltaic demonstration and training program that will be incorporated into existing workforce training programs at DCC. Funds are also requested for equipment needed to support creation of a Nanotechnology Technician Education program. DCC estimates the programs will serve 375 students in the next three years in fields and topics such as bio-fuels, solar/wind energy, polymers, nanotech, engineering and advanced manufacturing.

Total project cost is \$1,143,204. Other funds include: \$135,000 DCC/VCCS - DCC will be contributing \$120,000 from its operating budget to fund wages/salaries/benefits for program administration, curriculum development, and marketing recruitment; VCCS will be contributing an additional \$15,000 for the same through its award of an IE grant. (received); \$638,000 National Science Foundation to develop the Nanotechnology Education program (received).

Staff comments and recommendation: DCC has received TICR support totaling more than \$5.6 million since the inception of the Commission, primarily focused on programs and equipment, but also supporting scholarships and facilities. In combination with the DCC proposal below the College is requesting one-fifth of the available Education competitive grant funds. All of the requested programs target emerging technology sectors in the region, but could all benefit from stronger articulations with programs such as the IALR polymer program and SENTEC bio-energy research facility, etc. The nanotechnology program is well-supported by the \$638,000 NSF grant, partnerships with 29 regional companies and plans to articulate it to the UVA PRODUCED engineering program. **Staff recommends award of \$39,204 for nanotechnology program equipment.**

Danville Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.
Danville Community College Student Training and Scholarships (#1933)
\$465,000 requested

Grant funds are requested to support training and education of the region's workforce through several programs: financial assistance to tobacco farmers or their family members (\$125,000); tuition assistance for twenty students

in the intensive forty hours a week for ten week Manufacturing Technician Certificate training program (\$50,000); tutoring services to enhance academic success for 1,200 students (\$75,000); two full-time nursing faculty positions for a campus based Registered Nursing program to be offered to at least twenty students annually (\$170,000); rapid prototyping equipment used by drafting students to fabricate 3-dimensional parts from 3d CAD files (\$30,000); and faculty certification training for at least five faculty members in occupational programs to develop knowledge in alternative energy and advanced manufacturing (\$15,000).

Total project cost is \$465,000. Other funds include: \$500,000 VCCS for tutoring, faculty salaries, and equipment (funded FY2009-2010); \$9.7 million Danville Regional Foundation for construction of Foundation Hall for DCC Health Sciences (completion and occupancy for Fall 2009 Semester).

Staff comments and recommendation: DCC has been awarded scholarship funding to date of more than \$876,000. Balances of more than \$563,000 remain on FY07-09 awards. **Staff recommends award of \$364,000 to support nursing faculty and transfer payments for tobacco awards and advanced manufacturing students (reducing the requested tutoring support and excluding the requested professional development and equipment).**

Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine *Tobacco Region Medical Education Loan Repayment and Placement Program (#1913)* \$1,000,000 requested

Funds are requested to provide student loan repayment for primary care (family practice, internal medicine and pediatric) medical residents who commit to serve a minimum of three years in a tobacco-dependent community upon the completion of their training. The project is intended to reduce the shortage of nearly 500 primary care physicians in the tobacco region. Participants will be eligible for repayment of up to \$40,000 or 25% of their student loan balance. Each applicant must have a commitment form a healthcare provider to employ or recruit them with a three-year service obligation and those employers must also provide up to \$2,500 of loan repayment when the applicant enters the program. Depending on the amount of repayment each participant is eligible for, an estimated 25-28 physicians will be served by this project.

Total project cost is \$1,087,500. Other funds include: \$62,500 healthcare organizations in the tobacco region for 25% match of initial payment to program recipients (due at time of execution of letter of agreement).

Staff comments and recommendation: The project would serve 25 students and indicates that future Commission funding would be necessary to sustain the program. There is no evidence that physicians receiving funding through this program would not already be locating in the tobacco region or any mechanism to encourage them to stay in the region beyond their three year obligation. The proposal indicates that there is an existing program National Health Services Corp that currently provides up to \$25,000 per year for up to two years (\$50,000 total) with a two-year service commitment for physicians who practice in a Health Professional Shortage Area (32 or 78% of the 41 tobacco region localities are designated as single county or are partially designated as a HPSA). While the proposals state sit will market the scholarships to other medical education institutions, funding this program will have minimal effect on reducing the shortage of physicians and would set a precedent for future grants requests from other medical colleges. **Staff recommends no award.**

County of Franklin

The Franklin Center for Advanced Learning and Enterprise Lower Level Completion Project (#1932)

\$596,400 requested

Funds are requested to renovate 4,700 square feet of training space on the lower level of the Franklin Center to provide four additional classrooms and three resource rooms. Build out of this space is needed to accommodate increasing enrollment, expansion of course offerings and demand for use of the building by the business community and other groups. The additional space will allow for up to an additional 4,000 participants and 1,443 new credentials, certifications and/or degrees completed in the first three years that this space is utilized by education partners; nearly doubling the capacity for educational partners including PHCC (30 additional students annually), VWCC (+68), Ferrum (+26), and Franklin County Adult Education (+87).

Total project cost is \$961,500. Other funds include: \$298,100 County of Franklin for operation, IT, custodial, equipment, utilities, salaries, etc. (in-hand); \$100,000 Carilion Foundation to lab equipment for second floor classroom (committed); \$67,000 Franklin Center partners for operational support (in-hand).

Staff comments and recommendation: The Commission has invested more than \$2.4 million in the Center's new facility and operating programs. Of that amount, construction of the new Center that opened in 2007 was accomplished using nearly \$1.9 million of Southside Economic Development allocation. The Center has unquestionably elevated education programs and achievement in the County, in strong partnership with regional educational institutions and industries. There is a current available balance of \$451,476 in the Southside program that would enable substantial completion of these capital improvements. As proposed, all matching funds for buildout of this space are operational. **Staff recommends project be referred to Southside Economic Development.**

Town of Glade Spring

Peery Development Center – Glade Springs, Virginia (#1938)

\$275,725 requested

Funds are requested to renovate the second floor of the Peery Development Center in Glade Spring, Virginia. In addition, funds will be used for supporting mechanical systems, to build a parking lot and for architectural design and inspection services. The first floor of the building will house the Washington County Public Library while the second floor will house the Development Center. The Center will be used for GED classes, adult literacy classes and introductory computer skills development classes. Courses on lead base paint abatement and green construction technologies will be provided to contractors in the Center which will also house computer terminals for community use.

Total project cost is \$687,725. Other funds include: \$25,000 USDA Rural Development to purchase community facility equipment (grant pending, environmental review in progress); \$69,000 Town of Glade Spring to complete the acquisition of the parking lot and facility renovations (budgeted); \$318,000 Washington County to complete the acquisition of the parking lot and facility renovations (budgeted).

Staff comments and recommendation: The Commission has supported basic computer skills training on a broad regional basis in the past (e.g. TekXam) and has supported a small number of library expansion projects in the Education program. However, the number of basic computer skills requests in this cycle (four, including IALR, Skillstreams for Success and Russell County Library) and the potential precedent for funding library computer facilities in every tobacco region locality make a case that basic computer skills classes that do not offer a critical workforce credential are now more ubiquitous and should not a high priority for the Commission. While there is an expressed commitment by the regional GED program to offer classes here, there is not a

demonstrated, quantified need for the listed training classes or a sufficient case that these courses are not currently being offered in a reasonable proximity. **Staff recommends no award.**

Greenville County

Southside Virginia Education Center – Phase II Employee Enhancement Center (#1870)

\$500,000 requested

Funds of \$100,595 are requested to construct Phase III of the Education Center as an addition to the current facility built with funds from the Commission and other federal, state and local sources. The 21,900 square foot expansion of the Education Center will house four additional classrooms, four employee assistance offices and three large instruction labs for automotive technology, welding/plumbing/electrical and high performance manufacturing. The expansion will also provide a kitchen, storage room and an entrance foyer/prefunction space for the Center's Phase II assembly hall.

Total project cost is \$5,000,000. Other funds include: \$1,502,660 – TICRC Reserve Fund for construction (committed); \$1,502,660 – EDA for construction of classroom/lab space (awaiting approval); \$1,394,085 – Greenville County for architectural/construction (committed); \$100,595 – TICRC Economic Allocation for construction (awaiting approval).

Staff comments and recommendation: Commission grants for the Education Center's first two phases total \$1.1 million, and have assisted in the doubling of enrollment in community college classes that were formerly held in the Perdue site. A TICR Reserve Fund request was approved in late-June to equally match a federal EDA request of \$1.5 million. However, that federal proposal has been returned due to the lack of an approved CEDS plan in the Crater Planning District. Pending approval of that plan in a timeframe to allow action on the EDA request, the project is in a state of limbo that is outside the County's control, and additional funding obligations including a pending Education grant proposal seem premature. **Staff recommends project be tabled.**

Institute for Advanced Learning and Research

Workforce Training to Improve STEM Capacity (#1927)

\$290,428 requested

This project supports three workforce training program offerings that have previously been funded through a TICR FY07 Education grant: International Computer Driving License (ICDL), Southside Educators' Development Institute (SEDI), and College Internship Program. The ICDL program provides basic computer skills training to promote computer literacy through seven modules with ~ 455 participants receiving an ICDL certificate; funds are requested for a part-time coordinator and course instructors, courseware and certification tests, and for staff travel to off-site locations. The SEDI program will provide 42 professional development workshops for 200 teachers focusing on technology integration across curriculum utilizing a new STEM Mobile lab and interactive video-conferencing; funds are requested for a part-time coordinator, course instructions, printing, and conferencing services. The goal of the college internship program matched by employer contributions is to recapture college students who have left the region, linking 45 students to employment opportunities in with local business/industry.

Total project cost is \$425,565. Other funds include: \$47,750 Department of Education FIE for STEM Mobile Lab and on-site teacher professional development (awarded); \$87,387 IALR (in-kind and business contributions for interns) for project administration, conferencing services, and intern wages (pending grant approval).

Staff comments and recommendation: All three program elements have been supported for two or more years using an FY07 Education grant (#1275). The Commission has supported basic computer skills training on a broad regional basis in the past (e.g. TekXam). However, the number of basic computer skills requests in this cycle (four, including Glade Spring Peery Center, Skillstreams for Success and Russell County Library) make a case that basic computer skills classes that do not offer a critical workforce credential are now more ubiquitous and should not a high priority for the Commission. It is also difficult to justify the sustainability of adding two part-time program staff at a time of lean state funding support. The SEDI teacher certification has been operated on a no-cost basis for participants who clearly have an ability to pay the \$50 class fee that has been waived to date due to Commission support - those participant fees should be retained in order to move the program closer to sustainability. The now-proven internship program should be adjusted to a 50:50 cost share with regional employers, which would also move that program to a more sustainable model. **Staff recommends award of \$125,000 for SEDI direct instruction costs (excluding part-time coordinator) and 50:50 cost shared internship program.**

Institute for Teaching through Technology & Innovative Practices & Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium (ITTIP)

Synergize Southside Virginia: Seeds of Change for Economic Development – Core Implementation I (#1940)

\$1,319,108 requested

The proposal aims to expand educational offerings on emerging technologies utilizing broadband networks and enhanced distance education technologies. Two new career certificate programs will be implemented initially at Patrick Henry Community College - Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Building 3D Virtual Worlds (BVW). In order to enhance video quality for visual program instruction, a significant amount of grant funds (\$679,308) are requested for hardware and the installation of high definition videoconferencing systems at high schools, community colleges, and other locations that offer adult education. The proposed outcomes estimate an additional 88 adults receiving career certificates, 80 high school students participating in dual enrollment classes and 200 individuals participating in small business development and/or community building workshops as a direct result of the project.

Total project cost is \$1,981,608. Other funds include: \$74,000 ITTIP to provide human and technology resources form 11/1/2009 (committed); \$12,000 Longwood University to provide human and technology resources form 11/1/2009 (committed); \$25,000 SBDC to provide human and technology resources form 11/1/2009 (committed); \$54,000 SVRTC to provide human and technology resources form 11/1/2009 (committed); \$25,000 SVHEC to provide human and technology resources form 11/1/2009 (committed); \$30,000 PHCC for other resources; \$7,500 NSF to VSGC toward Synergize (total received by VSGC \$894,288 for Virginia) for training of one faculty in PHCC (committed); \$45,000 (\$20,000 toward hardware; \$25,000 toward human resources for support) Brunswick, Charlotte, Halifax, Henry, Martinsville, Mecklenburg and Patrick to fund new technology in high schools and human resources for project (in process to be accurate with numbers); \$120,000 in-kind services from several local businesses to provide training, technology hardware for servers, discounts on software and SL space, human resources to recruit business for continuing education (in process).

Staff comments and recommendation: The request seeks 35% of the Committee's available funds to serve eight local school districts and five higher education and/or distance learning centers (Longwood, PHCC, IALR, SVHEC, Lake Country). Supplemental information provided by the applicant and indicates requests totaling an additional \$1.2 million over the next two years to reach an additional 15 school districts. The current request includes \$389,200 for recurring operating expenses including contracted personnel and telecom costs, and the three year budget plan brings that total to more than \$750,000. The proposal includes several letters of support

from network partners, including businesses that state an interest is using 3D technologies to market their company's services. However, baseline data on SVRTC programs and enrollment since the network was initiated in 2001 show most individual course offerings have had relatively small enrollments, have expired in recent years, and have served several school districts outside the tobacco region. Due to funding limitations and factors cited above **Staff recommends no award.**

Lonesome Pine Office on Youth

The Crooked Road's apprenticeship and Mountain Music Camp (#1909)

\$149,000 requested

Funds are requested to implement a 12 month Mountain Music Apprenticeship program for 20 youth ages 12-18 who will be paired with master performers. These participants will be paired with a qualified master artist and will be provided "hands on" musical instruction in the instrument of their choice. Funds are requested for travel, lodging at a one-week camp at Breaks Interstate Park, workshop consultants, food and beverage, shirts, concert performers' fees, CD recording costs, music instruments etc. At the end of the apprenticeship they will receive a certificate of accomplishment from the Director of the Virginia Folklife Program.

Total project cost is \$231,000. Other funds include: \$56,322 – Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for teaching youth entrepreneurship/PA system from Crooked Road (received 0 effective 10.1.09 – 9/30/10); \$34,000 – CD Sales returned to Lonesome records revolving loan fund for 100,000 camp fees (\$250 X 40).

Staff comments and recommendation: The proposed program is based on two regional models (Junior Appalachian Musicians and MECC's Mountain Music School) and targets the transfer of skills from the region's internationally-recognized master artists. However, the target audience is middle and high school students and this is one time funding for a program that does not make a case for sustainability. Staff recommends applicant consider setting this up as a dual enrollment program with community colleges (the application states that efforts have been initiated to create a certificate program through Mountain Empire CC) and address sustainability questions. **Staff recommends no award.**

Lynchburg College

Central Virginia Regional Health Sciences Simulation and Virtual Learning Center (#1928)

\$259,434 requested

Funds are requested for nursing clinical simulation equipment to be located at a new facility in the City of Lynchburg that will provide increased healthcare training opportunities for students and providers. The Center for Simulation and Virtual Learning will be established to facilitate workforce development and training through a public-private partnership developed between Lynchburg College, Centra Health, and Central Virginia Community College. The nonprofit Central Virginia Health Sciences Education Consortium was formed to provide governance, leadership, and operational oversight for the new center. An interdisciplinary team approach to simulated learning will be used at this facility. The facility will allow for training opportunities for students interested in nursing, paramedicine, respiratory therapy, physical therapy, radiology, and family medicine. The facility will enable training for students of RN and LPN students in the Lynchburg College and Lynchburg General Hospital (Centra) Schools of Nursing, as well as CVCC's paramedic and respiratory therapy students. Approximately half of the students in those programs are tobacco region residents. The applicant states the project will enable growth of those programs by adding facilities to train an additional 85 students per year.

Total project cost is \$662,829. Other funds include: \$189,197 Lynchburg College; \$189,197 Centra Health; \$25,000 CVCC all in-kind for facility renovation, equipment, personnel etc.

Staff comments and recommendation: This proposal was passed by in the FY09 round, and the partners have subsequently added relationships with the CVCC programs cited above. The equipment request is consistent with several previous Commission awards to support nursing education at facilities such as Southern VA Higher Education Center and other community colleges. The training facility will be located in a former shopping center approximately two miles outside the Commission service area in City of Lynchburg, co-located and sharing synergies with an existing Family Medicine Residency Program. The substantial leveraging of the project partners' funds are commensurate with the enrollment of tobacco region residents and benefit to non-residents. Linkages to regional employers such as Centra that are continuously recruiting nurses are very evident. **Staff recommends award of \$200,000 for equipment.**

Mount Rogers Regional Adult Education Program

Southwest Virginia RACE to GED (#1914)

\$165,000 requested

Funding is requested to conduct the seventh 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 (\$74,000). The program expects to serve 2,200 individuals during the grant period.

Total project cost is \$862,563. Other funds include: \$151,250 Regional Adult Education Programs for operating costs (in-hand); \$45,000 Food City for marketing assistance and graduation incentives (approved); \$350,000 Bristol Motor Speedway for marketing assistance and graduation incentives (approved); \$151,313 Charter Media for marketing assistance and graduation incentives (approved).

Staff comments and recommendation: Previous grants to this program have totaled nearly \$635,000 from FY03-09. The value of the requested marketing activity (cable TV, billboards etc) is unquestioned, but can be accomplished to a significant extent using public service announcements. Furthermore, TICR policy is to deny requests for on-going marketing funds after an initial project start-up period. **Staff recommends award of \$75,000 award (excluding marketing).**

Mountain Empire Community College

Scholarships for Tobacco Families and AIMS Higher Scholars (#1873)

\$500,000 requested

Funds are requested to continue to award scholarships to tobacco producers, their families and tobacco workers, to continue the AIMS scholarship program for the 2010 cohort of high school graduates. Funds are also requested to provide scholarships to other degree seeking students who do not meet the criteria for the AIMS or Tobacco scholarships. Approximately \$200,000 is allocated for the Tobacco Scholarship program (serving 275 students), \$200,000 for the AIMS program (serving 90 students), and \$100,000 for other degree seeking students (serving 45 students). All must be program-placed to qualify for these "last dollar" awards.

Total project cost is \$820,000. Other funds include: \$120,000 state financial aid (COMA, VGAP, PTAP & CSAP) for general expenses, financial aid is to be leverage prior to AIMS Higher funds (projection based on prior years' experience with AIMS).; \$200,000 federal financial aid (PELL, SEOG & FWSP) for general expenses, financial aid is to be leverage prior to AIMS Higher funds (projection based on prior years' experience with AIMS).

Staff comments and recommendation: MECC has received TCR support totaling nearly \$4.4 million since the inception of the Commission, focused primarily on scholarships (94%). To date these scholarship programs have assisted more than 2,800 tobacco family members and more than 450 AIMS recipients at an approximate average cost of \$1,260 per participant. There are current balances of more than \$550,000 from FY07-09 grants. **Staff recommends award of \$300,000.**

Mountain Empire Community College ***Alternative Energy Training Program Development (#1941)*** **\$110,091 requested**

Funds are requested for two years of salary support to develop and implement an 18 credit hour Alternative Energy Career Studies Certificate to increase the capacity of the southwest Virginia workforce to meet the needs of the emerging regional alternative energy sector. The proposed 2 year grant will enable MECC to hire a new faculty member, develop the curriculum, offer the program, and measure outcomes for the first participants. Core alternative energy project partners for the curriculum development include, Dominion Resources, BP Wind Energy, IX Energy, and James Madison University (which is developing a Wind for Schools grant and plans to involve MECC as a satellite site). The proposed faculty member will provide leadership for the alternative energy career studies, and teach courses in the Energy management Associate Degree program and the Associate Degree program in Manufacturing, Electromechanical Specialization.

Total project cost is \$179,386. Other funds include: \$40,000 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to develop an alternate energy career studies at MECC (awaiting award letter); \$250,000 - \$500,000 grant proposed to train workers for alternative energy jobs (application due 9/29/09); \$? National Science Foundation to create K-12 and 4-year college links in alternative energy (pre-app submitted in Spring 2009, application due 10/15/09).

Staff comments and recommendation: The proposal is somewhat parallel to the Southwest Community College request focus on green skills training. The proposal cites potential linkages to regional employment opportunities such as Dominion/BP wind projects, IX solar energy, and the Wise energy research center. Absent the DOL funding there is not a critical mass of enrollment to justify the program and staff position (20 participants in two years versus 100 with DOL funding support). **Staff recommends award of \$110,090 contingent on award of DOL grant.**

Patrick Henry Community College Foundation ***Meeting Regional Workforce Needs (#1883)*** **\$555,447 requested**

Funds are requested to support three long range objectives: remedial math education intended to increase student success in college level math by 20% (\$360,000), implementation of a Practical Nursing Certificate program at the Franklin Center with capacity to graduate 25 students annually (\$170,447), and certification of eight instructors in dual enrollment instruction reaching an additional 250 high school students (\$25,000). The college identifies that 65% of students applying to the college's current nursing program require extensive

remediation in mathematics; and with completion of algebra being required for entry into many associate degree programs. The project proposes hiring a math specialist to develop modules and curriculum, a case-management enrollment specialist for placing students in a math track, and qualified math tutors to provide academic support to all levels of mathematics. A fast-track math instruction is being piloted for four developmental math courses. The LPN program will hire two full-time faculty positions and a program coordinator for the program which is already approved by the VA State Council of Higher Education. The dual enrollment instructor training will meet needs of a current waiting list of potential participants.

Total project cost is \$1,389,058. Other funds include: \$273,717 VCCS for 3 yrs. salary math faculty and 2 yrs. LPN marketing (current yr award for faculty, funding for yrs 2&3 committed); \$314,894 Health and Human Services & Health Resources Service Administration for staff, equipment, and materials for year 2 of LPN program (applying for funds Fall 2009); \$225,000 MDC to support remedial program development and evaluation (awarded); \$20,000 Franklin Memorial Hospital to fund clinical instruction sites (pending).

Staff comments and recommendation: PHCC has received TICR support totaling more than \$4.8 million since the inception of the Commission, primarily spread across support for programs, equipment and scholarships. The proposal could be scaled back by \$120,000 by reducing the requested three years of math specialist salaries and tutoring support to two years. The support is estimated to assist an additional 100 students annually. LPN program costs to establish the Franklin County training site are requested for one year only. **Staff recommends award of \$435,410 including two years of funding for math specialists and reduced tutoring support.**

Radford University

Radford University Doctorate of Nursing Practice (#1929)

\$430,000 requested

The project proposes to create an on-line Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program “targeted at professionals in the Tobacco Region” that would increase the number of qualified nursing faculty at educational institutions. The full-time three-year program would be available to working nurses and educators, allowing professionals to remain in the community while attaining an advanced degree. Grant funds are requested primarily for personal services (\$265,000) to fund a program coordinator, a statistician and a grant writer; and contractual services (\$135,000) and supplies and materials (\$30,000) to fund faculty augmentation stipends, web design and technology training.

Total project cost is \$2,513,187. Other funds include: \$383,187 Department of Education to provide partial funding of development costs associated with the Doctorate of Nursing Program (received); \$1,700,000 foundations and individuals to provide partial funding of development costs associated with the Doctorate of Nursing Program (pending).

Staff comments and recommendation: A feasibility study completed in 2008 projected new enrollment of 25 students per year and identifies the Commonwealth and the nation as the service area, and does not specifically identify that this program will be limited to or focused on students from the tobacco region. While Radford does have a nursing staff presence at New College in Martinsville, the request does not identify that personnel to be hired with grant funds will be located in the tobacco region, and it appears that these staff will serve students from across the state and nation. Aside from the USDOE grant for program development, the majority of matching funds have not yet been secured, and while the proposal states that tobacco region foundations are involved in the development, no funding commitments have yet been made by those organizations. This program appears to have some potential to prepare tobacco region professionals to become nursing educators, however the annual program enrollment of 25 leads to an assumption that tobacco region representation will be very small compared to enrollment from the New River and Roanoke Valleys, as well as more urbanized areas in

Virginia and beyond. An online DNP program is already available within tobacco region via Old Dominion University's Teletechnet distance education network. **Staff recommends no award.**

Russell County Public Library

Honaker Community Library Computer Lab (#1936)

\$54,870 requested

Funds are requested for the renovation of existing space and the construction of additional space at the Honaker Community Library to create a nine seat computer lab and a program room that can also be used for instruction. Funds are also requested to offer a quarterly series of basic computer classes. The library will partner with the Southwest Virginia Technology Development Center to offer a series of classes from the very basic ("Mousing Around") to gain familiarity with the computer, to the fundamentals of using the Microsoft Office suite and the Internet and World Wide Web.

Total project cost is \$218,470. Other funds include: \$7,000 Library of Virginia for computers, equipment, and furniture (support for operations) (annual application and approval with quarterly payments); \$25,000 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rural Development for equipment and furnishings (application pending); \$40,000 Russell County for construction (allocated: \$15,000 FY2010; requested: \$15,000 FY 2011, \$10,000 FY 2012); \$75,000 Estate of C.P. and Elsa Williams addition to the Honaker Community Library (funds held by Russell County; \$2,600 Gates Foundation for hardware, training and technical support (approved; awarded after 11/09).

Staff comments and recommendation: This proposal was passed by in FY09 Education and returns with more solid design plans, cost estimates and class programming. The Commission has supported basic computer skills training on a broad regional basis in the past (e.g. TekXam) and has supported a small number of library expansion projects in the Education program. However, the number of basic computer skills requests in this cycle (four, including IALR, Glade Spring Peery Center and Skillstreams for Success) and the potential precedent for funding library computer facilities in every tobacco region locality make a case that basic computer skills classes that do not offer a critical workforce credential are now more ubiquitous and should not a high priority for the Commission. **Staff recommends no award.**

South Central Area Health Education Center

Workforce Preparation for Jobs in Healthcare (#1937)

\$180,000 requested

Funds are requested for renovation of 6,000 square feet at the Virginia Technical Institute in Altavista for relocation and expansion of SCAHEC's healthcare training programs that are currently located in a different leased building. The current training facility offers one classroom and one clinical lab and provides nurse aide, medication aide, and CPR training. The new location will provide three classrooms and two clinical labs as well as a conference room, break room, staff offices, library, and computer lab. The new facility will allow the SCAHEC to expand program offerings to include licensed practical nursing and physical therapy assistant training for 30 students in each program.

Total project cost is \$280,000. Other funds include: \$25,000 The Virginia Center on Aging for instructor salary (proposal to be submitted 9/1/09); \$20,000 Department of Labor for equipment (planning to submit proposal); \$25,000 Lane Foundation for program expansion (proposal has been submitted); \$1,000 individual to donate a room (on-going); \$3,000 per month of rent - Dale Moore to match renovation/construction costs (confirmed through letter of agreement).

Staff comments and recommendation: SCAHEC operations have been supported by three grants totaling more than \$325,000 in FY03-08. A balance of more than \$58,000 remains in the FY08 grant to expand LPN training. SCAHEC reports it has outgrown its current space and its lease is up for renewal in February. Full funding of this SCAHEC request will equate to five years of rent-free space at VTI. The proposed new site (VTI in Altavista) is also a candidate for Southside Economic Development funds (a request of \$1,000,000 for building renovations to house construction trades training). That latter request is not recommended for funding by staff until VTI receives an IRS nonprofit determination (which is likely), and to allow further development of partnerships with area community colleges. **Staff recommends no award.**

Southwest Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing

Manufacturing Career Outreach (#1895)

\$217,500 requested

This proposal was originally submitted to the Southwest Economic Development Committee and was referred to the Education Committee September 23rd. Funds are requested to provide four MET (Manufacturing, Engineering, and Technology) Career Coaches who will work 7-12 grade students in Smyth and Washington Counties to guide them into careers in Manufacturing. Of the four coaches, two will cover the Wytheville Community College service area (serving Smyth County) and two will cover the Virginia Highlands Community College (serving Washington County). The positions will be part time and the coaches will spend a minimum of 22 hours per week working with students within the designated service area. Pilot programs of the program have been funded at five community colleges through ARRA funds however none of these programs are located at SWVA community colleges. Funds will also be used for supplies and equipment to support the programs and will become the property of the Smyth County and Washington County Public Schools.

Total project cost is \$290,000. Other funds include: \$40,000 VCCS for personnel services (approved); \$22,500 Smyth-Washington Regional Industrial Facilities Authority for personnel services, supplies, and materials (received); \$10,000 SVAM for personnel services (received).

Staff comments and recommendation: The program has a valuable objective in offering career exploration programs beginning in middle school settings that support workforce development for local industries. However, the target audience of middle and high school age learners has not been a specific priority of TICR funding, results have not yet been obtained for the other statewide pilot projects (which include an added focus on Middle College for ages 18-24), there are precedent issues with providing training equipment to local school districts, and the question of ongoing operating support is not evidenced by letters of support from the participating community colleges or industries. Letters of support from school boards included with the application indicate that there are already career coaches to serve these students, albeit they are not specifically manufacturing specialists. **Staff recommends no award.**

Southside Virginia Community College Foundation

Southside Workforce Academy Preparation FY10 (#1926)

\$473,140 requested

Funds are requested to support four initiatives for in-demand occupations. The scholarship program for tobacco farmers and families serving 60 students a semester for three semesters and an academic based program for high school students who enter SVCC with a 3.0 GPA serving 30 students the first year and 15 the second year will be continued (\$175,000). The Occupational/Technical programs including Construction Trades will be expanded to the new Lake Country Education and Enrichment Center in Clarksville to serve a minimum of 12 students in

each class offered through hiring of a program developer and purchase of essential program equipment (\$56,516). The nursing and health technology program will be strengthened by hiring a specialized counselor to work with students at the four LPN, three RN, and nine nursing assistant program locations to increase graduation rates by at least 3% in the first year from current 55% level (\$71,500). The Middle College program will be expanded to include Occupational/Technical Middle College at Pickett Park in Blackstone with targeted enrollment of 30 students through the hiring of a full-time instructor (\$71,500).

Total project cost is \$8,728,173. Other funds include: **Initiative #1:** \$ 1,533,137 state financial aid programs (COMA, VGAP, PTAP, etc.) to provide need based student assistance (received for 08-09); \$6,468,896 federal financial aid programs (to provide need based student assistance (received for 08-09); \$125,000 SVCC Foundation for scholarships (received for 08-09); \$50,000 clubs and organizations for local scholarships (received for 08-09): **Initiative #2:** \$22,500 SVCC for administrative overhead, travel, marketing, supplies, and adjunct faculty (committed); \$3,500 Lake County Education and Enrichment Center for utilities (committed); \$25,000 Clarksville Ruritan Club for equipment (pledged): **Initiative #3:** \$10,000 SVCC for administrative oversight, travel, supplies and materials, and computers (committed): **Initiative #4:** \$17,000 SVCC for administrative oversight, travel, supplies and materials, and facility (committed); \$5,000 SVCC Foundation for scholarships (committed).

Staff comments and recommendation: SVCC has received TICR support totaling nearly \$5.4 million since the inception of the Commission, spread evenly across support for programs, facilities, equipment and scholarships. All staff positions hired with grant funds will be sustained by the college in the second year. **Staff recommends award of \$450,000 excluding scholarship funds for books.**

Southwest Virginia Community College ***Creating Green Collar Jobs in Southwest Virginia (#1875)*** **\$422,000 requested**

Southwest Community College proposes to help create demand in the region for green projects through an initiative that will “green” its existing construction trades program; create a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency certificate program and specialization in the Construction Trades Technical Studies AAS degree program; and create a “living laboratory” on its main campus. Funds are requested to purchase supplies for selected courses in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, to “green” the curricula for six trades, testing fees for 90 students to take national exams, materials to build an Earthcraft home that will be auctioned off, and to complete the equipping of the carpentry, masonry, and plumbing trades programs offered for the first time this semester. The College estimates enrollment of 140 students with 105 completing the program (a 75% completion rate) and 84 receiving credentials.

Total project cost is \$2,401,303. Other funds include: \$614,000 VCCS to complete a new building designed to house 3 trade programs; tuition/fees for detainee and internships (committed); \$25,000 Appalachian Detention Center to complete a new building designed to house 3 trade programs; tuition/fees for detainee and internships (committed); \$5,000 Clinch Valley Community Action to complete a new building designed to house 3 trade programs; tuition/fees for detainee and internships (committed); \$5,000 People, Inc to complete a new building designed to house 3 trade programs; tuition/fees for detainee and internships (committed); \$400,000 Department of Labor (earmark) to provide curriculum development; staff and faculty salaries; workstations for electrical “power lab”, and mentor college visits (pending Senate approval); \$526,560 DOL Community Based Jobs Training Program grant to provide curriculum development; staff and faculty salaries; workstations for electrical “power lab”, and mentor college visits (committed); \$100,000 Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to provide curriculum development; staff and faculty salaries; workstations for electrical “power lab”, and mentor college visits (committed); \$10,000 Dept. of Ed Title III Strengthening Institutions grant to provide curriculum development; staff and faculty salaries; workstations for electrical “power lab”, and mentor college

visits (committed); \$43,743 SwVCC for 20% Dean, Workforce Development time commitment, 10% coordinator, and Construction Trades Academy (\$21,752) (committed); \$250,000 Dominion Resources to construct a green energy efficient building with solar panels and wind turbines as a “living laboratory” to educate students and community groups about green technologies (committed, pending board approval).

Staff comments and recommendation: This is a very well-leveraged request that rolls out programs in a campus facility that was renovated with help from an FY09 Education grant of \$205,000. The proposal is somewhat parallel to the Mountain Empire Community College request focused on alternative energy training. Curricula and credentials will all be based on national standards (e.g. NCCER, RESNET, LEED etc). The proposal scored in the upper quartile of requests. However, this request along with the College’s accompanying scholarship proposal (below) total \$985,000, or more than one-quarter of the Committee’s entire balance of funds for competitive grants. The College has consistently stated that scholarships are its highest priority (91% of SwVCC’s TICR support totaling more than \$5.8 million since the inception of the Commission has been focused on scholarships). Due to funding limitations **Staff recommends no award.**

Southwest Virginia Community College ***SWCC Tobacco Outreach Scholarship Program FY10 (#1876)*** **\$563,040 requested**

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 recipients). Funds are also requested to provide tuition and books (\$163,040) for 100 students in the College’s Construction Trades Program who have completed pre-apprenticeship classes and are moving into a skilled craftsman track. An estimated 385 program-placed tobacco region residents will be served annually by these last-dollar programs, of which 192 would receive a degree or certificate. The College states that more than half of all TICR recipients enroll in programs that enable transfer to a four-year institution, stay in school and graduate at higher rates than all students, and that 86% of the graduates remain in Southwest VA.

Total project cost is \$1,375,519. Other funds include: \$128,069 COMA, VGAP, PTAP, and CSAP for scholarships (committed); \$424,787 HETAP, HRSA Nursing Grant, NSF Grant, Academic Competitiveness Grant, DOL Healthcare Grant, DOL Construction Academy Grant, PELL, and SEOG for scholarships (committed); \$36,073 SwVCC for scholarships (committed); \$223,550 SwVCC Education Foundation for scholarships (committed).

Staff comments and recommendation: SwVCC has received nearly \$5.3 million for tobacco and AIMS scholarship support since the inception of the Commission. The College has indicated the Construction Trades scholarship support would be a one-time request to the Commission. **Staff recommends award of \$350,000 for tuition and required fees only (excluding books).**

University of Virginia ***Engineers PRODUCED in Virginia (#1931)*** **\$705,000 requested**

Funds are requested to continue support for start-up of the Engineers PRODUCED in Virginia program. At the associate degree level, the proposal seeks support for engineering faculty positions at Central Virginia Community College, Danville Community College, and Virginia Highlands Community College. The three

faculty being hired into these positions will use technology enabled teaching techniques such as distance learning to provide engineering classes to their students as well as to students in the service regions of Patrick Henry Community College, Southside Virginia Community College, Mountain Empire Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, and Wytheville Community College. At the bachelor degree level, funding will support the development and delivery of upper level undergraduate engineering classes by UVA faculty and staff members which will enable students to stay in their communities while earning an Engineering Science bachelor degree. The application projects annual enrollment of 125 new students, and that by November 2010 50 students will have received an Associate of Science in Engineering degree. Of those, 40 will continue on to the Bachelor degree program. This request seeks \$355,000 for faculty, operating expenses and equipment in the tobacco region, and \$350,000 curriculum designers, distance education media specialists and support staff and expenses in Charlottesville.

Total project cost is \$1,430,000. Other funds include: \$100,000 per year University of Virginia to support Engineers PRODUCED in Virginia (committed); \$100,000 to CVCC by General Assembly & Office of the Governor for scholarship and lab renovations (committed); \$400,000 National Science Foundation STRP program to support program with scholarships and student services (committed); \$25,000 National Science Foundation NUE program to support course development (committed); \$25,000 National Science Foundation CCLI program to support wireless curriculum development (committed); \$177,580 request made March 2009 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to support rural distance learning (declined (8/09), resubmit planned March 2010); \$30,000 various companies in Lynchburg for tuition, books, and fees (committed); \$45,000 for general program expenses (committed); \$600,000 National Science Foundation S-STEP program to support scholarships at UVA (planned request 9/14/09).

Staff comments and recommendation: The PRODUCED proposal was the highest scoring submission in this cycle due to its broad regional reach, transformational impact of offering programs not previously available in the region, high salaries for graduates, diverse matching funds, partnerships with educational institutions across the tobacco region, and direct employment connections to regional employers. It was initially supported by an FY09 Education grant of \$656,000 and approximately \$460,000 subcontracted by IALR to UVA under FY07 Education grant #1275. The initiation of the program has resulted in an estimated ten-fold increase in students studying engineering in the tobacco region this fall (250 versus a previous annual average of 25). Staff suggests this and future requests for program development in Charlottesville be funded on a matching dollar-for-dollar basis with UVA. **Staff recommends award of \$530,000 with Charlottesville project costs to be funded on a dollar-for-dollar cost-share basis.**

Virginia Highlands Community College

Scholarships for Tobacco Families and AIMS Higher Scholars (#1912)

\$400,000 requested

Funds are requested to award up to 220 VHCC Tobacco Scholarships for enrollment in VHCC credit courses for Summer Term '10, Fall Semester '10, and Spring Semester '11 (a total of \$260,000). Funds will also be used to award up to 80 AIMS scholarships to eligible 2010 area high school graduates for VHCC academic years 2010-11 and 2011-12 (\$140,000). Students must be "program-placed" (on a degree track) and state and federal financial aid will be leveraged prior to awarding TICR AIMS Higher & Tobacco Scholarship funds (i.e. TICR funds are "last dollar" scholarships).

Total project cost is \$1,085,000. Other funds include: \$185,000 state financial aid (COMA, VGAP, PTAP, & CSAP - projection based on prior year); \$450,000 federal financial aid (Pell, SEOG, & FWSP - projection based on prior year); \$50,000 – VHCC Educational Foundation – endowment (to be raised by June 2010).

Staff comments and recommendation: VHCC has received more than \$4.5 million for tobacco and AIMS scholarship support since the inception of the Commission, which has assisted more than 2,400 tobacco family

individuals. Of those tobacco recipients, 350 graduated from a program. AIMS has assisted more than 300 students. The approximate average cost per student for the two programs combined is \$1,690. VHCC cites a 21% increase in enrollment for Fall 2009 as need for further assistance. **Staff recommends award of \$350,000.**

VirginiaFIRST

Workforce Pipeline Initiative in Southside and Southwest Virginia (#1923)

\$155,000 requested

This project will increase participation of underserved groups/schools in science and technology learning through the establishment of two self-sustaining resource zones and expansion of the FIRST robotics competition program into twelve new high schools. The majority of grant funds (\$79,200) are requested for official “kits” for the new and veteran teams with additional funds needs for supplies and materials (\$33,800). Funds are also requested to support contractual services including training and teacher stipends and to support four local coordinators to oversee and execute the program includes two lead coordinators within the Virginia Community College System (\$42,000). The project will expose 500 high school students from 24 schools in the tobacco region to opportunities associated with the FIRST programs.

Total project cost is \$295,500. Other funds include: \$113,500 – Corporations and Foundations to provide tools, materials, equipment, staff/leadership support, travel, lodging, and uniforms (matching upon formal roll out of Resource Zone Plan); \$27,000 – In-kind donation of machinists of professional time and materials to support students by providing technical expertise to build robot (will occur upon creation of teams and roll out of plan).

Staff comments and recommendation: VirginiaFIRST is clearly a long-standing, well-run and well-supported program that provides a highly positive experience for high school youth in several tobacco region school districts. It was previously supported by an FY08 Education grant of \$76,000. However the program does not grant an adult education credential, which is the outcome metric for the Education program. The applicant identifies that they are working with the community college system to establish the regional coordinator positions for which funding is sought here. If those parties can further accomplish making this a dual enrollment credit-earning experience, that would make any future requests a better fit with the Education grant program’s objectives. **Staff recommends no award.**

Washington County Adult Skill Center

Diesel Truck Technician (#1924)

\$28,000

Funds are requested to purchase a pre-owned over the road tractor to use for training purposes for the Diesel Technician Program. The program is in need of a truck with and automatic transmission and will train approximately 30 students per year.

Total project cost is \$32,000. Other funds include: \$4,000 Washington County Adult Skill Center to purchase a truck (in house capital).

Staff comments and recommendation: This is a solid proposal that has merit in terms of accredited education leading to existing employment opportunities, however it is a relatively small local project that would set precedent for funding numerous individual county adult skill centers. There may also be opportunities to get a truck donated, as has been the case elsewhere in tobacco region truck driver training schools. **Staff recommends no award.**

Wytheville Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.
Wytheville Community College Forging Futures Scholarship Program (#1884)
\$200,000 requested

Funds are requested to continue the College's 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 \$208,928. Other funds include: \$8,928 in-kind from Wytheville Community College to provide funding of personnel costs for program administration (allocated in WCC budget).

Staff comments and recommendation: This program was established in the past year, using an FY09 Education grant of \$200,000 (prior to that WCC had never received TICR support for scholarships). The latter grant has been successfully implemented, assisting 124 students in the first two semesters, and has a balance of more than \$112,000 (less any current obligations for which grant funds have not yet been released). It appears the current annual pace of scholarship awards is approximately \$150,000, though that pace may grow as awareness of the program grows among regional students. There is an obvious issue of sustainability now that the program has been established and relies on annual TICR funding. **Staff recommends award of \$150,000.**

Wytheville Community College Educational Foundation, Inc.
Wytheville Community College Workforce Licensure Assistance Program (#1934)
\$44,150 requested

Funds are requested to provide assistance to WCC graduates who successfully complete course requirements for degrees, diplomas, and certificates but are unable to afford the cost of the required licensure exams. Assistance will be provided to "Qualified Students" which are defined as students who have met the requirements to enroll at WCC as dislocated workers and students who have demonstrated financial need (based on student's financial aid file including the FAFSA). Students must also be seeking licensure in targeted healthcare and construction technology program areas such as Registered Nursing, Practical Nursing, Physical Therapist Assistant, Respiratory Therapist Assistant, Radiography, Dental Hygiene, Medical Lab Technician, and Construction Technology.

Total project cost is \$53,719. Other funds include: \$9,569 in-kind from Wytheville Community College to provide funding of personnel costs for program administration (allocated in WCC budget).

Staff comments and recommendation: The request would provide an incentive for deserving students to complete required testing that leads to employment opportunities in targeted allied health career paths (this assistance is also offered in the Crater Planning District through TICR grants to the Skillstreams for Success program). However, future sustainability is likely dependent on future TICR grants, and would expand a precedent for licensing exam assistance across the entire tobacco region. **Staff recommends no award. ■**