



## ONE PROGRAMS UPDATE

### Career Coaches Key In On Amazing Presentation

CVCC Career Coaches, Josselyn Gregory and Miranda Lowry, outlined their approach to matching students with local jobs at the third annual Virginia Community College System's Career Coach Academy in Williamsburg in September. About 150 career coaches from across Virginia attended.

In their presentation, entitled "Amazing: A proven way to simultaneously serve 85% of your Student Population and Grow Your Own Workforce," they explained how the collaboration among local economic development agencies, high schools, community colleges and career coaches can successfully serve 85 percent of a school's population and simultaneously grow a local workforce. Their presentation was such a great hit that they were asked to present it twice.

### Surveying High School Students—"I didn't think anyone really cared."

Imagine walking into a classroom to survey high school students and extending an invitation to each student to stay here and work in the area or to return after they go to college and become a part of this community? That is exactly what Charlene Crews asks when she administers the career choice survey. You will probably be surprised at some of the replies, such as "No one has ever asked me that question before." "I didn't think anyone really cared."



The Bedford County Public School system has junior and senior high school students interested in visiting and touring businesses, as well as having businesses come to each of the high schools for a Club Day presentation. Don't let this wonderful opportunity go by. Let us help you **Grow Your Own Workforce**.

## Student Tours of Bedford Memorial Hospital and Sentry Equipment Erectors

### The Healthcare Career Choice

"It helped me have an even better understanding of my career choices." "I found the trip both educational and interesting." "The trip provided a lot of useful information." These were some of the many comments shared by the students who recently toured Bedford Memorial Hospital.



Andy Warden, R.N., B.S.N., welcomed 35 seniors from Jefferson Forest, Liberty and Staunton River High Schools. On November 10, 2008 the students made a visit to the largest employer in the City of Bedford—Bedford Memorial Hospital. These students had expressed some interest in a healthcare career and were presented with the opportunity to learn about the various jobs available in the healthcare field.



### The Sentry Way....."Quality Standards Change, But Quality Doesn't"

It was like "Star Wars"—at least that's what it reminded senior high school students from Jefferson Forest, Liberty, and Staunton River, of as they witnessed Sentry Equipment's robotic in action. On November 12, 2008 Sentry Equipment Erectors, located in Forest, opened its 200,000 square foot shop and office space for a tour by 46 senior high students. The students were introduced to Sentry's manufacturing operation and engineering staff by its founder, Adam Vinoskey. During the tour, students observed the assembly and testing of conveyor systems manufactured for such businesses as the food and beverage industry, bottled water packaging, can and bottle manufacturing, and pharmaceutical industry.



The following are a few of the evaluation comments from the students after touring Sentry Equipment: "Excellent trip and extremely useful!" "I was allowed to see a different category of engineering." "I got to explore the outside workforce and was compelled by what jobs are available in the area." "I enjoyed the trip to Sentry and hope to visit other businesses similar in our area."

As a result of the field trips and the information presented to them, 70% of students said that they were more likely to stay in this area to work or to return to work in this area later.

## HAPPENINGS FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Middle School Technology Challenge—Congratulations 1st Place Winners

Bedford County students from Bedford Middle School and Staunton River Middle School recently participated in a problem solving Technology Challenge competition among the area's middle schools. The event took place at this year's Future Focus Expo at Liberty University. This was a tough multiple team competition, but the student's met the challenge and as a result won **First Place** in two of the four categories.

#### The Babcock and Wilcox Company Energy Challenge

##### Bedford Middle School (Team 2), Bedford County Schools

Sponsor: Ms. Sylvia Robertson

Team: Emily Wills, Christine Wray, Sheely Coleman, Logan Davenport, Jackie Sperrazza, Kennedy Flynn

#### Centra Healthcare Challenge

##### Staunton River Middle School (Team 4), Bedford County Schools

Sponsor: Ms. Judith Whitehead

Team: Anna Martin, Damian Dolittle, Tia Nance, Peyton Johnson, Travis O'Neil, Tyler Walton, Alex Cowan

**Congratulations! An outstanding job!**

### In Recognition of Charlie H. Oliver, Jr.

Wyatt Walton, Chairman of the Bedford County Economic Development Authority, expresses his gratitude and appreciation to Charles H. Oliver, Jr. for his leadership and untold hours of his personal time given in support of the efforts of the Authority and its staff. On December 11, 2008, Charles H. Oliver, Jr. concluded 23 years of service representing District Seven as a member of the Bedford County Industrial Development Authority, which was later re-named the Bedford County Economic Development Authority.



### Upcoming News & Events (dates subject to change)

**February 3, 2009 (9:00 am—1:30pm)** - Student Tour hosted through the Bedford Area One Programs - A Practical Look at Nursing at Lynchburg General's School of Nursing for Bedford County's high school juniors and seniors in pursuing a medical career. Other tours still in the planning stage.....Stay Tuned.

**February 19, 2009 - 5:30 pm** - Bedford County Economic Development Authority - Organizational Meeting at the Bedford County Administration Building, Board of Supervisor's Meeting Room

**February 24, 2009 (potential date)** - In cooperation with Region 2000 - **ENTREPRENEUR EXPRESS** is a series of **FREE** workshops offered throughout Virginia that provide interactive discussions and exercises covering key elements of business practices, hosted by your Virginia business partners.

#### **Segments Include:**

- How to Start & Operate a Business
- Growing Your Business/Marketing Strategy
- Financing/Marketing Resources
- Available Resources
- Resource Fair



**Note**◆ Plans are in the early stages for an interesting and timely "Business First" meeting. Look for more Information after the holidays!

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*