



COUNTY WINS VACo AWARD FOR TRAINING EFFORTS

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Montgomery County, Virginia – Montgomery County received a 2010 Achievement Award recognizing model local government programs from the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo).

The County was recognized for regional collaboration for its New River Valley Training Program. The County and the towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg offer orientation training for new employees and joint training in other areas such as customer service and diversity in order to reduce costs and staff time involved by sharing resources.

“Many times during budget cuts, training is viewed as easily expendable. The teamwork between the human resources departments in Montgomery County and the two towns make training available at a fraction of the typical cost,” said Board Chair Annette Perkins. “This regional effort demonstrates creativity and effectiveness and brings value to the taxpayer through well-trained government employees.”

The County is one of 13 counties to receive awards in the statewide program. Lane Ramsey, former Chesterfield County administrator; Tedd Povar, associate director of the Virginia Institute of Government; and Marilyn Blake, former Hanover County assistant administrator, served as judges for this year’s statewide awards program.

“We didn’t see a dramatic decline in submissions as we received the second-most in the program’s eight-year history,” said VACo Executive Director James Campbell. “This tells me that Virginia continues to adapt to the economic environment by developing innovative programs to affect positive change in our communities. The quality of the entries, many of which can be replicated throughout the state, was very impressive.”

“I want to commend those who submitted to the Achievement Awards program,” Povar added. “I was most impressed with all the applicants, who seemed undaunted by the economy and their budget situations. The leadership in Virginia’s 95 counties is strong. These projects reflect that sentiment.”

The VACo Achievement Awards is a competitive program open to local government members of the association. A Web site (www.vaco.org/achievementawards.html) has been created with all the entries posted.

Representatives from each of the award-winning counties will receive a certificate at an official ceremony during VACo’s 2010 Annual Conference in November. VACo will also present several awards at Board of Supervisors meetings.

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