



News Release

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Virginia Counties Recognized for Model Programs

The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2010 Achievement Awards recognizing model local government programs.

The winning counties, program titles and categories are:

- **Campbell County:** “Performance Improvement Teams—Employee Driven Long-Term Planning” (Organizational Development)
- **Chesterfield County:** “Whoa Baby” (Health/Human Services)
- **Hanover County:** “Dominion Resources Greentech Incubator” (Community/Economic Development)
- **Henrico County:** “The Fitness and Wellness Certification” (Organizational Development)
- **Isle of Wight County:** “Isle Be Green—Plastic Bag Recycling Program” (Environmental)
- **Loudoun County:** “Homeless Services Center” (Health/Human Services)
- **Louisa County:** “Homebuyer Assistance Program” (Community/Economic Development)
- **Montgomery County:** “New River Valley Regional Training Program” (Regional Collaboration)
- **Pittsylvania County:** “Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority” (Regional Collaboration)
- **Prince William County:** “Design-Build Process” (Transportation)
- **Prince William County:** “Revenue Forecasting Process (Organizational Development)
- **Roanoke County:** “Green Ridge Recreation Center—An Innovative Public/Private Partnership (Community/Economic Development)
- **Stafford County:** “The Opening of Fire Station No. 14” (Criminal Justice/Public Safety)
- **York County:** “Bats, Balls and a BMP—An Intergovernmental Project Produces Regional Benefits” (Regional Collaboration)

VACo received 60 entries for the statewide contest. 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.

“After a record 72 entries last year, we didn't see a dramatic decline in submissions as we received the second-most in the program's eight-year history,” said James Campbell, VACo executive director. “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.”

Also for the first time in the program's history, judges selected one submission as the “Best Achievement.” The winner of this year's distinction is Campbell County. Here's what Ramsey had to say about Campbell County's entry titled “Performance Improvement Teams—Employee Driven Long-Term Planning.”

“It is admirable for a county Campbell's size to create a comprehensive high-performance model, one that is transferable to small and large counties alike,” said Ramsey, who retired in 2007 after 20 years as Chesterfield County administrator. “Campbell County's program has been in place since 1999, and usually these types of models come and go. But this program has endured and that is a testament to its strength and productivity.”

This was the sixth consecutive year Povar has served as judge. “I want to commend those who submitted to the Achievement Awards program,” Povar said. “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.”

Blake, who recently retired, also raved about the quality of the entries. “I was pleased to see that so many small- and medium-sized counties participated,” Blake said. “I learned a lot from being a judge and reviewing the entries. I learned that we have many talented and skilled county employees in every region of the Commonwealth.”

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. Also, VACo will present several awards at Board of Supervisors meetings.

VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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