



Joint Industrial Development Authority

of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat

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PRESS RELEASE

Joint IDA Receives Grant to Help Start Career Coaching Program

WYTHEVILLE—The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County has received a grant from the Virginia Employment Commission under Workforce Investment Act funding that allows the Governor to help develop the emerging workforce in Virginia. The \$50,000 grant, when coupled with \$10,000 being raised through the Wythe Manufacturing Council, will be used to help Wythe County Public Schools fund the initial year of a career coaching program in each of the three middle school/high school pairs in the county.

Many national and local strategies have identified the need for career coaches to assist students, parents, and education professionals in evaluating various career options for students early in their academic studies to enable them to obtain a better understanding of career opportunities, requirements, and expectations. The program begins by exposing younger students to general information and requirements for broad career paths. By the time students complete high school, the program aims to provide opportunities for shadowing, mentoring, and internships, thus helping students obtain direct experience in the career of their focus.

The career coaching program will begin with the 2006-2007 academic year. The Wythe Manufacturing Council and other local employer organizations will provide ongoing support to the program by offering “real world” insights for various locally available careers.

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