

VATNP Wins Rural Healthcare Award

The Virginia Appalachian Tricollege Nursing Program (VATNP) has been recognized by Virginia's State Rural Health Plan for the "innovation and excellent performance" of its Part-Time Evening/Weekend program.

Virginia Del. Dave Nutter presented the Rural Healthcare Workforce Organization Award to VATNP Dean Kathy Mitchell this week during the 2010 Rural Health Summit in Danville.

The Part-Time Evening/Weekend Program (PTEW) began in 2003 with a grant from the Virginia Tobacco Commission and, to date, 77 have graduated from the program. Mountain States Health Alliance has recently partnered with the VATNP to support continuation of the PTEW program with an anticipation of at least 40 graduates per year.

"We established the Part-Time Evening/Weekend Program to provide nursing education to those who could not juggle the rigorous scheduling demands of the traditional two-year program," Mitchell said. "Many of our students have work and family responsibilities that prevent them from attending full-time or during the day, so this is a perfect option for them. We currently have about 140 students enrolled in the Evening/Weekend Program."

VATNP was established in 1976 when Virginia Highlands, Mountain Empire, and Southwest Virginia community colleges joined forces to provide a two-year nursing education program for the region's residents. As the demand for nurses continued to grow, the PTEW was established to provide another option for those interested in becoming registered nurses.

Like the traditional program, the PTEW program combines classroom instruction and clinical training. Students typically can complete the program in three years while attending classes in the evenings, on weekends, and via distance education. Additional information is available at www.vhcc.edu/vatnp.

Editor's Note: Virginia's State Rural Health Plan is a 3-5 year strategic plan designed to strengthen the health care infrastructure in rural areas. The Workforce Awards are designed to recognize individuals and/or organizations for making significant contributions to rural communities through education, recruitment and retention initiatives designed to address Virginia's healthcare workforce shortage.



Dr. Ron Proffitt



Dr. John Boyd



Dr. Cathy Maxwell

Presidential Finalists Visit VHCC

The campus community spent a day with each of the three finalists for the job of VHCC president this month before providing feedback that will be reviewed by the College Board as a top candidate is chosen to replace retiring president David Wilkin.

The Board will meet April 1 to make a recommendation to Dr. Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges. The new president will officially begin work July 1.

Those chosen as finalists in the nationwide search are:

- **Dr. Ron Proffitt**, who currently serves as vice president of instruction and student development at Wytheville Community College, a position he has held since 2007. He was dean of the math, science and health technology division at Southwest Virginia Community College from 2000-2007, and was program director and instructor in radiologic technology at SWCC from 1993-2000 and from 1975-1992. He also worked at Bristol Regional Medical Center from 1992-1993 and held other allied health posts prior to joining the staff at Southwest Virginia. He holds a doctorate from East Tennessee State University, a master's degree from Virginia Tech, a bachelor's degree from Bluefield State College and a diploma in radiography from Holston Valley Community Hospital.
- **Dr. John Boyd**, who is currently president of Colorado Northwestern Community College, a position he has held since 2006. He previously was interim provost of the Grand Strand Campus of Horry-Georgetown Technical College in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina from 2005-2006. Prior to that, he served as chair of the criminal justice department at Horry-Georgetown Technical College in Conway, South Carolina from 1999-2006. He also served on Horry County Council, worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and was a successful business owner. He has a doctorate in educational leadership from Clemson, a master's in criminal justice from Oklahoma City University and a bachelor's in criminal justice from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.
- **Dr. Cathy Maxwell** is currently vice president for academic affairs and economic development for Gwinnett Technical College in Lawrenceville, a position she has had since 2006. She previously was executive dean of business and technology at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois, where she worked from 1996-2006 in a number of positions, beginning with director of career placement services. She previously worked for several years in private industry. She holds a doctorate in adult continuing education from Northern Illinois University, along with a MBA from the same university. She has a bachelor's degree in business management from Loyola University Chicago's Mundelein College, and an associate's degree from Wilbur Wright City College in Chicago.



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SIFE Team Awarded for Enterprising Projects

"Chain Gang Recycling," a bicycle recycling project that allowed inmates of a local correctional facility to refurbish bikes for needy families, has landed the VHCC Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team an Environmental Sustainability award.

And the VHCC team was also named "Rookie of the Year" and "First Runner-Up" for its outstanding accomplishments during its first year in existence.

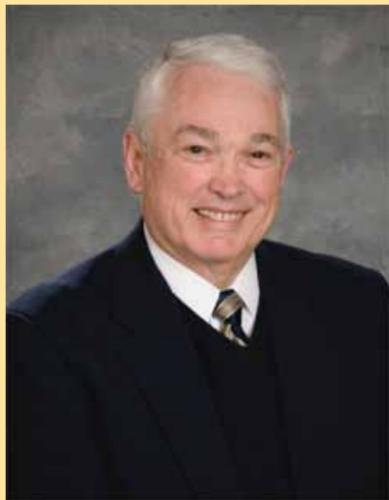
The awards were announced during a SIFE Regional Competition held in Charlotte on March 29.

The VHCC SIFE team is led by Advisor Phil Ferguson, an English faculty member, and President Michael Doss, a VHCC student.

The mission of the organization is to help community members develop a better understanding of the principles of free enterprise so they may use the information to achieve their dreams.

Additional information about SIFE's recent projects is available in the organizations [2009-2010 Annual Report](#). Those interested in joining SIFE may attend the next meeting at 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, in LRC-734.

Tilley, SBDC Win Top Business Admin Honors



Jim Tilley and the Virginia Highlands Small Business Development Center (SBDC) he has led since 1993 have been chosen to receive top honors from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

The Industrial Development Authority of Washington County nominated Tilley for the 2010 SBDC Service Excellence and Innovation Center Award for his

outstanding contributions to the growth and development of small businesses. Following his selection as the Virginia award winner, the Virginia Highlands SBDC was selected to receive the corresponding award for Region III, which includes the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Tilley will accept both awards during a luncheon in June.

In nominating Tilley for the award, the Washington County IDA called him "a cheerleader for small business."

"Small businesses are the lifeblood of the local economies in rural Southwestern Virginia, and Mr. Tilley possesses the perfect blend of hands-on experience, personal contacts, and familiarity with a network of regional and state resources to anticipate and meet the diverse needs of his small business clients," the nomination says.

Tilley holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Industrial Management from the Georgia Institute of Technology and is a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Under Tilley's leadership, the Virginia Highlands SBDC has assisted in the creation of more than 225 new businesses since 1993, and 75 percent remain in operation today. These businesses have invested more than \$53 million in the local economy, with total sales exceeding \$34 million.



Several dozen Neff Center students got a lesson in reality on March 10 thanks to the Reality Store, an exercise that challenged them to survive on a paycheck comparable to one they might receive for their chosen profession. After paying taxes and establishing a savings account, the students traveled from booth to booth, using their fictitious money to purchase food, clothing, transportation, housing and other necessities. When the money ran out, many found themselves downsizing to a more affordable home or taking on a part-time job to make ends meet.

The event was organized by VHCC Career Coach Sherrie Speigler and Sherry Greer of the Neff Center. For more information about the program, you may read a recent article in the Bristol Herald Courier by clicking [here](#).

Job Corps Offers Cash for College

VHCC students can earn a paycheck for attending classes, thanks to an off-center training program now being offered by the Blue Ridge Job Corps.

Candace Gilley, Off-Center Training Coordinator for the Job Corps, said the program is available for eligible students between the ages of 16-24 who are enrolled full time in a degree or certificate program at VHCC or Wytheville Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, Smyth County Technical Center or the Washington County Skills Center. Although each program participant must attend a one-day orientation session at the Job Corps' Marion facility to get started, all other program requirements can be completed on campus.

"Students enrolled in the program receive a paycheck on a biweekly basis for attending class," Ms. Gilley said, explaining that a Job Corps counselor will assist students in completing the enrollment application and determining if they meet eligibility requirements. "Each student will be given a form, which is like a time sheet, that their instructor signs to verify that they are attending class. They complete the documentation, and then we deliver their paycheck to them."

The program also provides career planning services, including help in drafting a resume and events to learn interview skills, she said. Those who complete a degree or certificate program are given a \$1200 bonus, she added. Funding is provided through the U.S. Department of Labor.

Those interested in applying to the program should contact Ms. Gilley at (276) 783) 7221, extension 225.

Employee Assistance Available

Looking for short-term assistance in handling a personal, family or work-related issue?

A free benefit is included in the behavioral health benefits for all employees enrolled in the state's health insurance plans. A confidential assessment and up to four free counseling visits (with local counselors) are available to the employee and members of the employee's household eligible for health insurance coverage. Reasons for accessing this benefit may include: conflicts within the family or workplace; personal and emotional concerns; alcohol and substance abuse; financial and legal problems; elder and child care issues; and career concerns and other challenges.

Accessing the care is easy. Call the benefit provider, ValueOptions, at 866-725-0602. All services are completely confidential. If more than four sessions are needed, ValueOptions also will assist you with accessing the Behavioral Health insurance benefits with the designated co-pays applicable to those services.

The ValueOptions web site is also a good source of specific and general information. You may access the web site link on the FYI-Health Insurance Section of the Human Resources web page. Always call the toll-free number (listed on your health insurance card) for pre-authorization before accessing the Employee Assistance or Behavioral Health benefits or scheduling appointments with a provider.

Contact the HR Office if you have any questions.

Golf Tourney Set for April 26

Four-member teams are now being formed for the 3rd Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament to be presented by the VHCC Educational Foundation on Monday, April 26, 2010, at Glenrochie Golf Club.

Alpha Natural Resources will serve as primary sponsor of the event, which will follow the tradition of a four-player Captain's Choice formation. First Bank & Trust, Wolf Hills Energy, and Wordsprint will serve as associate sponsors.

The cost for a four-member team is \$400 and all proceeds will support scholarships and provide vital programs funding for VHCC. The entry fee will include a barbecue lunch prior to the 1 p.m. shotgun start and a hamburger cookout immediately following the tournament.

Teams may register online at www.vhcc.edu/golf or request additional information by contacting David Matlock, vice president of Institutional Advancement, at dmatlock@vhcc.edu or (276) 739-2473.