

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **BEST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**KING AND QUEEN COUNTY** | King and Queen Broadband Internet | [Read Submission](#)

King and Queen County was once underserved by high speed internet service providers. Only a very limited area of the County had access to high speed internet service via a cable television provider whom had advised the County that they would not expand services. Most citizens within the County relied on slow dial-up access, cellular hotspots and satellite for internet and online transactions.

## **BEST ACHIEVEMENT FINALISTS**

**ARLINGTON COUNTY** | Active Shooter Response – Run, Hide, Fight | [Read Submission](#)

The “Active Shooter Response: Run, Hide, Fight” program is a three phase process that makes the Department of Homeland Security’s “Run, Hide, Fight” response model as accessible as the “Stop, Drop, and Roll” response for fire safety. This innovative and non-threatening approach includes a focused risk assessment, an informative training session, and an experiential drill. This comprehensive approach allows participants to make security improvements, learn about proper response, and evaluate their training.

**LOUISA COUNTY** | School Garden and Breakfast in the Classroom | [Read Submission](#)

Childhood obesity and childhood hunger are serious problems in our society. By establishing a school garden and creating a new breakfast program, Louisa

County's Moss-Nuckols Elementary School, in collaboration with the County Extension Office, is countering both issues simultaneously while enhancing instructional time and quality.

## **ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS**

**Albemarle County** | Using Advanced Technology for Public Safety at Foxfield Races | [Read Submission](#)

Over the past 10 years, Albemarle County Information Technology, with the help from public safety partners, continues to improve the process of public safety implementation at big events such as the Foxfield Races. Using an innovative network that has improved over time, thorough testing of the equipment, a remote magistrate function, and an innovative approach to tracking arrests and other incidents; event management has become a system of ongoing success.

**Arlington County** | Magnolia Bog Restoration Project | [Read Submission](#)

Arlington County's Department of Parks and Recreation's Barcroft Magnolia Bog Restoration Project serves as a model for natural resource management by highlighting opportunities to incorporate community groups in environmental stewardship activities. The Magnolia Bog is located within the Four Mile Run Watershed at the southern end of Barcroft Park in Arlington County, Virginia. Within this twenty-five acre natural site are 18 separate freshwater springs, 23 plant species found nowhere else in Arlington County, 32 locally rare plant species, Virginia State Champion trees, County Champion and Significant trees, uncommon insects and a variety of locally rare animals. This globally-rare ecosystem, one of less than two dozen known examples in the world, represents just a fragment of the natural landscape that used to be common in Arlington County.

**Arlington County** | StartupArlington | [Read Submission](#)

StartupArlington is a collaborative initiative between Arlington County and key members of Arlington's business and hospitality community designed to reach out to and educate a larger scale of entrepreneurs who would potentially benefit from locating their businesses in Arlington. A partnership was created to develop a competition for technology startups in which the winner would be able to bring his/her business to Arlington for three months free of charge, with work space, living space, and other amenities provided by Arlington and its partners. With this method, a startup business founder would have the opportunity to experience the resources and opportunities that exist in Arlington for entrepreneurs before making a long-term commitment. At the same time,

Arlington County has a new tool to connect with entrepreneurs who may have an interest in opening or relocating a business in Arlington – companies that may previously have never considered Arlington as a potential location for success for their business. As a result of the program, new companies are realizing the benefits available in Arlington and have chosen or are considering Arlington as their new location headquarters.

**Chesterfield County | Library as Lifeboat: A Library and Emergency Management Partnership | [Read Submission](#)**

Prior to 2011, Chesterfield County employed a standard emergency management approach that placed the primary responsibility for the community's emergency response on police, sheriff and fire departments. Other agencies with the requisite equipment and skill, such as Parks and Recreation, were charged with clearing roads and debris from public roadways and structures. While not a first responder or a department with skill and equipment in debris cleanup, Chesterfield County Public Library (CCPL) staff were called upon in 2011 to work with local emergency management personnel, throughout Hurricane Irene to shelter displaced daytime residents, distribute meals and disseminating disaster information and updates to community residents throughout the county, actions that had not previously been tried by the county emergency management. This extemporaneous role was so successful that CCPL emerged as a key player in the local response to Hurricane Irene and a permanent player in providing temporary daytime shelter, access to emergency meals and distribution of emergency information. By increasing intergovernmental cooperation, CCPL and Chesterfield County are better able to serve citizens in a disaster.

**Chesterfield County | Same Day Access | [Read Submission](#)**

Mental Health Support Services (MHSS) of Chesterfield County, the public behavioral health authority for 5 magisterial districts in central Virginia, implemented Same Day Access for the citizens of our County in July 2015. Same Day Access is a systemic model that, when fully implemented, allows individuals immediate access to a behavioral health intake and assessment for mental health and substance use disorder services. Through a review and revision of case load management and client length of stay, instituting centralized scheduling and collaborative documentation, and reorganizing the intake and assessment processes and staffing – SDA allows the organization to accept individuals seeking services on their time table not the organizations. With a more customer friendly approach to service intake, individuals are more engaged in the treatment provided and achieve symptom relief sooner.

## **Fairfax County** | Courtroom Interpreting Control System | [Read Submission](#)

The demands from a large, diverse population involved with the Fairfax County Courthouse require researching and implementing technological solutions to support high-volume interpreting for courtroom trials and hearings. Fairfax County judicial, legislative and executive management recognizes these challenges and not only support, but encourage innovative ideas and technological solutions to overcome the daily language barriers present during litigation in all three Fairfax County Courts and the Office of the Sheriff. The Fairfax County Court Technology Office (CrTO) led a collaborative effort including judges, court staff, deputy sheriffs, courtroom interpreters, and technical staff to identify a technological solution to improve the interpreting processes in the courtrooms and during arraignment and advisement hearings with the Adult Detention Center (ADC). The challenge was to improve and enhance interpreting processes with a technical solution that could be integrated with the existing high-tech courtroom infrastructure. The CrTO mission strategically aligns all projects to the originating principles and objectives: To improve citizens' access to the courts, facilitate trials and hearings in the most effective and efficient means possible, allow for all three Courts to share common resources, and provide for flexibility and adaptability to incorporate future changes in technology and court proceedings.

## **Giles County** | ACCE – Access to Community College Education | [Read Submission](#)

Access to Community College Education (ACCE) enables any Giles County Student who graduates from high school, with a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.5, to attend New River Community College with no tuition expense. The student may achieve an Associate Degree, with 60 credit hours paid by ACCE. Students may attend college for two years. In return, the student must provide 80 hours of community service to Giles each year they attend NRCC. The concept became discussion in 2013 and on August 24th, 2015, ACCE became operational; the first day of that school year at New River Community College. Numerous county officials and staff and NRCC staff were and/or are significantly involved in the development and implementation of the Giles County ACCE Program. These include the Board of Supervisors, School County of Giles 2016 Achievement Award Submission A.C.C.E. Board, Giles County Administrator, Superintendent of Schools, NRCC Educational Foundation staff, School Department Staff, Giles Community Service Coordinator and the Giles Special Projects Coordinator. An objective of ACCE is to elevate the educational levels of our citizens/workforce. The outcome will be a workforce that is more attractive to present employers. This more qualified workforce will also play a major role in attracting new business to Giles County. The ultimate objective is the development of more moderate-high paying jobs for our citizens leading to a quality of life enhancement for Giles citizens impacting all aspects of their lives. This past January, Giles County was advised by Virginia's Community Colleges

Chancellor Glenn DuBois that we were the recipients of the **2016 Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy** on behalf of New River Community College.

**Gloucester County** | Gloucester Community Needs Network | [Read Submission](#)

Through the use of electronic communications, helping organizations in Gloucester County are quickly and efficiently able to provide assistance to community members having a specific unmet need through the community "Needs Network." The "Needs Network" is an outreach of the Gloucester Resource Council and is facilitated by the Gloucester Department of Community Education. Electronic communications through the network reach a large number of helping organizations and individuals that review the requests and needs and offer resources, services and/or programs to assist. Through the community "Needs Network" forty (40) specific requests for needed services and resources were received and processed in 2015. A few examples include affordable or emergency housing, medical equipment, car donations/repairs, appliance donations/repairs, a computer donation, denture assistance, and a bicycle donation for primary transportation.

**Hanover County** | Strategic Zoning Initiative | [Read Submission](#)

Economic development remains a top priority for Hanover's Board of Supervisors. The County continually investigates unique strategies to further enhance economic development retention and recruitment efforts. The Strategic Zoning Initiative was developed in response to favorable changes in the Commonwealth of Virginia's real estate taxation enabling statutes related to agriculturally zoned properties.

**Henrico County** | Entry-Level Firefighter Hiring Process for Henrico County | [Read Submission](#)

One of the primary challenges for modern public safety agencies is to have a workforce reflecting the diversity of its community. When a public safety agency does not mirror the diversity of its community, it could stand to reason that the level of trust and confidence the residents of the community have in their public safety agency could be jeopardized. In an effort to make sure the Division of Fire's compliment reflects the community we serve, a joint project including subject matter expertise from the Henrico County Division of Fire (DOF), the Henrico County Department of Human Resources (HR), and the Henrico County Attorney's Office was implemented to revise the 2014-2015 Entry-Level Firefighter Hiring Process. The project's goal is to hire the highest quality

candidate representative of our community and is the best fit for Henrico Division of Fire.

**Henrico County** | SRO Arrest Procedures | [Read Submission](#)

This model of policing, as it relates to juveniles and students in a school setting, was developed and implemented BEFORE the current climate to make changes to the responsibilities of School Resource Officers in schools began. Multiple jurisdictions (such as Chesterfield County Police, Hanover County Sheriff's Office, Richmond City Police, and the VA Department of Criminal Justice Services are inquiring as to how the Henrico County Police Division has implemented the changes with School Services and its School Resource Officers. The HCPD has gladly shared its schools arrest program in the hope that other localities can have a successful working team of Police Officers and School Resource Officers.

**Henrico County** | Virtual Operations Support | [Read Submission](#)

The Henrico County Virtual Operations Support Team program offers the opportunity to engage citizen volunteers in the County's emergency response and recovery efforts at minimal fiscal investment. This not only promotes citizen involvement and a sense of pride and duty to the community; it seeks to strengthen existing public safety response partnerships across the region. With teams available across the world, the program illustrates the PRIDE (Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Empathy) objectives and ownership in the Division of Fire and the Office of Emergency Management, and supports a sense of professionalism with the volunteer cadre through completion of coursework through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Emergency Management Institute (EMI). The efforts of the VOST support all County agencies and provide a no-cost, high interest option for citizens to be engaged in times of crisis. This team also engages the next generation of citizen volunteers and opens new opportunities for them to be a part of the Henrico team.

**King George County** | My Vote Matters | [Read Submission](#)

The objective of this project was to create awareness among the residents of King George County concerning: Registering to vote, and Voting on Election Day. "Every election is determined by the people who show up," (Larry J. Sabato). Local Elections are what effect one's everyday life the most. Who wins will decide the future of the community, what businesses come to the area, and how high or low the taxes are within the county. King George County has over 16,000 registered voters, but unfortunately only about 30% show up for a non-Presidential Election to cast their ballot. Our goal was to get the word out to all

the residents to make the November 2015 election have more than 30% participation. Voter apathy is an issue, especially in small towns where local elections may only have one candidate on the ballot, or the people do not like who is running for election. Our campaign focus was to help people overcome the excuses for not voting and understand why their voice is so important. Through this campaign we emphasized how casting one's ballot impacts the outcome of elections. When one chooses not to vote, they are not only forfeiting their right to vote, but they are also forfeiting their right to shape the future of the entire community. We appreciate the assistance of everyone who worked on this campaign, but we especially appreciate the tireless efforts of the King George DECA Chapter to help get the word out to the entire community. Their enthusiasm and participation throughout the campaign, as well as the community involvement and increased voter education and participation, made it a rewarding success!

**Lancaster County and Middlesex County | Virginia's River Realm | [Read Submission](#)**

Virginia's River Realm is a newly created "micro region" of Lancaster and Middlesex counties designed to attract "more people, staying longer and spending more money" as well as extending our visitor season beyond the traditional Memorial to Labor Day window. This newly created "brand" and its marketing messages are unique in that the area being marketed crosses traditional government boundaries and looks at destination travel from the visitors' view point where geographic boundaries are fluid. Planning to go to a "county" could be unlikely but going to "the river" is a clearer message in the mind of the customer. This collaborative approach is paying dividends in having a bigger pool of attractions \lodging \dining options for travelers. The two areas complement each other in many ways from lodging to dining to shopping. Small towns are interesting and especially enticing when the visitor is coming from a crowded RVA or the metro Washington DC area. We have pooled funds, talents and resources to create a product that is being well received locally and by on line interest. Visitors often become second home owners or permanent residents. Whether travelers or citizens, all will have a positive outcome on our local economy. We invite you and our visitors to Find Your Shoreline (literally or figuratively), that happy place where life's pressures are left behind.

**Loudoun County | Loudoun County Farmer Trading Cards | [Read Submission](#)**

During discussions with the Loudoun County School Nutrition Services office in summer 2015, the idea to profile Loudoun County farmers on trading cards was born. Loudoun Economic Development managed card development with the goals of promoting Loudoun farms, farmers and agricultural products, while providing a tie-in to the Loudoun County Public Schools' USDA Farm to School grant program, which promotes access to healthy fresh foods. With participation

and support from one dozen Loudoun County farmers, the cards were designed and created in-house with staff including the department's agricultural development officer, the rural marketing manager and the graphic designer. A 13th card, referencing where consumers could locate local farm products, was also developed. In total, 87,000 cards were printed and distributed to local schools. The total cost of the promotion was approximately \$2150, including printing and shipping costs. Since the rollout, response has been overwhelming. Coverage has included local, regional and national news outlets, and social media attention has continued for two full months. Multiple school organizations, food-based nonprofits, farmers markets and others have announced their intent to launch similar programs. Because of the overwhelming success of the program, LCPS and DED have announced plans to repeat the program in fiscal year 2017.

**Powhatan County | Junior Emergency Technician JET Program | [Read Submission](#)**

When appointed in December of 2014, Fire and Rescue Chief Steven Singer began a journey to help re-vitalize the membership of the volunteer fire and rescue departments of Powhatan County. With the number of volunteer members dwindling in the normal recruit demographics of late teens to early twenties, Chief Singer looked to introduce a new younger generation into emergency services. With the help from current and past members of fire and EMS they formed the Junior Emergency Technician or "JET" program, bringing exposure to volunteer fire and EMS to a new generation. The program brought together children aged 12-15 to get them interested in emergency services and volunteerism. The program has been successful since first organizing, introducing teens and adults to emergency services and renewing interest from former members.

**Prince George County | Prince George County Toddler Fair | [Read Submission](#)**

Prince George County has developed a unique way to focus attention on early childhood wellness by hosting the annual Prince George County Toddler Fair. This event held each spring brings together multiple county and community agencies with a primary focus on the early identification of developmental, hearing, vision, speech or language delays that could have a negative impact on a child's school readiness. The annual Prince George Toddler Fair combines a number of fun activities such as "Story Time," a Teddy Bear Parade, a Petting Zoo, children's crafts and children's games with the various wellness screening activities. After two years, the Prince George Toddler Fair has provided 472 screenings of children and made 68 referrals for additional care or treatment. The Fair is free and open to the public for families with children five and under and is held at the Prince George Library and in the adjacent Scott Park playground area.



## **Prince William County** | Vacancy Impact | [Read Submission](#)

A cross-agency team in Prince William County was assembled by the Deputy County Executive in Fiscal 2016. Their challenge was to create a Vacancy Impact Report to assist the Board of County Supervisors (BoCS) with deliberations about vacant County positions for possible elimination or to reduce costs during budget deliberations. A team comprised of Human Resources, Budget and Department of Information Technology staff collaborated and created a Vacancy Impact Report. The Vacancy Impact report identifies the department, program, activity, position number, position title, total cost, percentage of general funds and non-general funds, whether it is a mandated activity, the total days vacant, the recruitment status and the impact of eliminating the vacancy. This information is also openly shared with the citizens through the Budget Office's website. The cross-agency team didn't stop with their success after the FY16 budget adoption. Vacancy impacts are now updated by departments as soon as positions become vacant and information is now available year-round. The Vacancy Impact reports promote general government accountability and our decision makers now have reliable, quick access to the vacancy information they need year round.

## **Roanoke County** | Neighborhood Concerns Zoning Code Enforcement Application | [Read Submission](#)

In October 2014 the County of Roanoke embarked on an effort to modernize its Zoning Code Enforcement Program through a comprehensive management system that prioritized citizen transparency and staff accountability, while maximizing efficiency. The requirements for the new system fell into four major categories: citizen engagement and ease of use, enforcement inspections, workflow automation, and reporting. Citizens desired an online application to submit their concerns that was both easy to use and provided status updates on submitted complaints. The new system was built in-house by leveraging GIS application technology currently in use by the County, and uses a map-based interface and street address integration to help citizens easily and accurately report concerns. The new system allows inspectors to take photographs, enter notes and update complaint status in near real time with iPads. The back end system accepts online submissions from citizens, handles inspector scheduling and prints violation notices due including a priority destination and citizen follow-up information. Having this information readily through an automated process that runs each night. This process also generates daily reports of inspections available increases the overall transparency for Roanoke County citizens, and increases staff efficiency to inspect, process, and resolve zoning code complaints.

## **Stafford County** | Select-A-Sport Day | [Read Submission](#)

In today's world where children's activities and sports are a booming business, some children often do not have a chance to try a new sport because of cost or time barriers. Stafford County's Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities Department helped alleviate that problem by creating a "Select-a-Sport" day where children can try an array of activities at no cost to their parents, all in one day. It benefited the County by providing a wider exposure to its programs. Stafford was able to create a successful program by using its existing resources and investing very little money. The answer is Stafford County's Select-A-Sport Day. Select-A-Sport Day is a free community event showcasing all community youth sports activities. Select-A-Sport Day is managed through a partnership between Stafford County's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities, and six local partner youth sports organizations. Each organization provides its own equipment and staff. Select-A-Sport Day is hosted at Stafford's own Curtis memorial park and advertised through existing means -the County website, cable channel, and social media. By these measures, Select-A-Sport Day is hosted at a low-host to Stafford County. Stafford has hosted Select-A-Sport Day for two years now and has plans for another this year. It has become a successful, highly anticipated event and has become an asset to the County.

## **Stafford County** | Stafford County's Partner Agency Funding | [Read Submission](#)

Stafford County initiated a collaborative funding model plan for Planning District 16 localities to include Stafford, Spotsylvania, King George, and Caroline Counties and the City of Fredericksburg in response to the Stafford County Human Services Master Plan. The goal is to create a holistic, collaborative system of service delivery that will provide citizens with quality, cost effective, preventive services. Within the Fredericksburg region, there are multiple intergovernmental, non-profit, and faith-based organizations that provide much needed supportive services to our citizens. They often fill a service gap to citizens who need the most support from its government. As a region, our local governments provide financial support to these agencies. It is our vision that together we can make sound, fiscally responsible, and impactful decisions for our communities. Collaborating on a funding approach provided an opportunity to discern what role local government has in providing financial support to human service organizations within the community. The five localities and partner agencies within the planning district began to use the same funding request application to create uniformity in the information being gathered by each locality. This uniformity also streamlines the process for our partner agencies as they complete a single application and submit to a sole location online where all five localities can access the information required to process the requests. The outcomes of this regional collaboration resulted in an updated application that focuses on the information desired by localities, a

true “single” application, and regional cooperation to better serve the community. Our next step is to use a web-based portal that will provide a tillable application on the web as well as access for each agency, locality, and volunteer.

**Stafford County | Telling the African-American History Story in Stafford County, VA | [Read Submission](#)**

As a child in Depression-era Stafford County, VA, Frank White was not allowed to attend school with white children because of segregation. His son David became the Chief Secondary Officer of Stafford County Public Schools and is currently the Superintendent of Schools for King William County. In 1854, Stafford native Anthony Burns escaped slavery only to be forced to return under the Fugitive Slave Act. His escape inspired abolitionists and he later gained his freedom and became a minister. These stories of adversity and triumph define the more than 350 years of African-American experience in Stafford County. The people who know these stories and the landmarks related to them are fading away. Stafford County and its Board of Supervisors have made it a priority to document and preserve the county's African-American history to honor and recognize the many contributions of African-Americans to the county. Stafford is achieving this through the help of local historians, civic organizations, historic tours, a permanent history wall, road markers, a slavery-related structure study and the historic preservation of a school integral to African-American life. Stafford's efforts resulted in the narration of a story that needed and deserved to be told- the wonderful and rich history of Stafford's African-American residents and their contributions to the progress in the county. Doing this during the lifetime of those who grew up in a less inclusive society makes Stafford's efforts more compelling. Stafford also brought citizens together and enhanced their participation by partnering with local historians, community groups and businesses to complete this mission. The results improved our services to our constituents by providing them historical displays and sites to visit and by integrating more local history into lesson plans for schoolchildren. The program was innovative because Stafford had never made efforts on this scale before. The Trail to Freedom was a completely original idea as was the special Trail to Freedom weekend during the 350th Anniversary Celebration. The African- American history wall was the first display of its kind in Stafford County to detail African- American history. Before these efforts, most African-American history in Stafford existed as verbal stories handed down through generations or as written narratives in books little known by the public. Some of the history existed only as yellowed items pasted in scrapbooks or awards or honors displayed on someone's mantle. Stafford gathered all these things together and found a way to find the larger audience they deserve. This has resulted in a more comprehensive representation of all of Stafford's history as well as an increase in opportunities for historic tourism. Stafford is simply telling its story in a better way.

## **Warren County** | Youth Board | [Read Submission](#)

Warren County has taken a structured approach to developing and evaluating youth services in its community. The need for a strategic plan for youth services was identified at a Court Best Practices Summit that was held in October 2012. The Warren County Youth Services Strategic Plan was developed in December 2013 by representatives of local government, social services, parks and recreation, juvenile and domestic relations court, law enforcement, schools, mental health services, non-profits, public health, and the local medical community, parents, and citizens. Participants met for two days with a strategic planning consultant to engage in dialogue and complete a series of activities designed to help them examine trends and needs, create a vision, and develop goals and action plans. To ensure the success of this vision by 2018, Warren County has identified five strategic target areas with specific goals that must be achieved, which include Central Coordination of Access and Funding, Prevention and Identification of Risk Factors, Youth Based Programming, Integrated Transportation, Economic Sustainability and Self-Sufficiency. The group also decided that a youth and family oriented multi-disciplinary oversight group should be established in order to carry the work outlined in the Strategic Plan forward. The Warren County Youth Advisory Board convened its first meeting in January 2014. The group is comprised of thirteen members and meets bi-monthly with the working committees meeting in alternate months. The Central Coordination of Access and Funding Committee's focus is on a centralized intake process to better serve families in crisis. The Exploratory Committee has been surveying middle and high school students to determine their interest in, or barriers to, participating in after school recreational activities. The intent of the survey is make recommendations to local government and community partners on the design and development of future recreational activities in Warren County.

## **York County** | File Structure and Accountability | [Read Submission](#)

Computer file sharing has become a foundation for coordination, integration, and collaboration between constitutional officers and their staffs, County departments, and divisions. This file sharing can be jeopardized by lapses in security and required cumbersome administrative support processes. Over the course of two decades, the York County file sharing system had become an unsustainable dumping ground for millions of documents. Over the course of 16 months, the entire file storage and sharing structure was revamped with no funding, no additional staff, no custom programming, or third-party software. File-related work orders are now completed in seconds instead of hours with 100% accuracy. End-users have an intuitive organizational structure providing file storage that is also customized to their specific agency's or division's needs and style. Additionally, the solution itself is flexible and scalable enough to be utilized in any organization with any number of employees.

**York County** | Taking Action Against Fire Service Cancer – Hoods and Wipes | [Read Submission](#)

The York County Department of Fire and Life Safety strives to maintain the highest standards of occupational health and safety and, in doing so, attempts to provide the most up-to-date training and equipment regarding fire industry safety initiatives. The department is well aware of the dangers our firefighters face on a daily basis, from fast moving cars on the street, to the roof collapse of a structure fire, and the list goes on. Those dangers are significant, obvious and tangible; however, the real danger that is causing far more firefighter fatalities is subtle and often overlooked. What is it? The answer is CANCER!!!! Cancer is the most dangerous and unrecognized threat to the health and safety of our nation's firefighters. While it is impossible to eliminate all the risks of an inherently dangerous profession to include carcinogen exposures, through awareness, training, and simple preventative measures, the Fire Service can begin to tilt the scales in its favor. A couple of ways York County Fire and Life Safety is working to combat this silent killer is through its "Hoods and Wipes" program.

**York County** | Training for Life – For Those Served and Those That Serve | [Read Submission](#)

The York County Department of Fire and Life Safety is fortunate to have a force of dedicated personnel that is always looking for creative and innovative ways to ensure that the services we provide are the very best. In keeping with this, recently a need was identified to conduct training on a Hampton Roads region-wide initiative involving fire attack, as well as fire victim rescue. This is referred to as Fire Dynamics, using the latest concepts of VEIS (Vent, Enter, Isolate, Search). Additionally, there was an ongoing need to conduct more critical in-depth training using training props known as the "Confidence Box" and "Mayday/Denver Drill" simulator. The training props were constructed and instruction was provided by a dedicated and pro-active group of department personnel. This comprehensive "trio" of programs, which we are calling "Training for Life...For Those Served and Those That Serve," was intended to provide our personnel with both new knowledge regarding firefighting tactics, as well as to reinforce and intently train on critical skills using creatively designed and constructed training props.

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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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