

# PRESS RELEASE



## Virginia Counties Recognized for Model Programs



**RICHMOND (August 1, 2012)**-- The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2012 Achievement Awards recognizing model local government programs.

The winning counties, program titles and categories are:

- **Augusta County (on behalf of six counties):** "Fields of Gold Agritourism" (Regional Collaboration)
- **Chesterfield County:** "Enhancing Customer Knowledge of eReaders and Digital Collections" (Customer Service)
- **Dinwiddie County:** "Dinwiddie Sports Complex" (Parks and Recreation)
- **Fairfax County:** "DIT Court Technology Model: Coordinated County and Courts" (Information Technology)
- **Franklin County:** "Transparency for a Citizen's Dollar" (Communications)
- **Greensville County:** "Southside Virginia Education Center" (Community/Economic Development)
- **Hanover County:** "Motorist Assistance Program" (Criminal Justice/Public Safety)
- **Henrico County:** "Historic County Data Book" (Community/Economic Development)
- **James City County:** "Comprehensive Plan Implementation Tracking Tool" (Information Technology)
- **Louisa County:** "Teen Quest Special Program" (Parks and Recreation)  
**BEST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
- **Roanoke County:** "Public Safety on the Appalachian Trail" (Criminal Justice/Public Safety)

VACo received 37 entries. Tedd Povar, associate director of the Virginia Institute of Government; Marilyn Blake, retired Hanover County assistant county administrator; and William Quarles, former Goochland County supervisor, served as judges for this year's statewide competitive awards program.

"It always amazes me the level of competition for Achievement Awards," said James Campbell, VACo executive director. "This year is no exception. Competition is fierce. All 37 entries are

deserving but only the best will receive an award. I'm grateful we have outstanding judges because the task to pick winners is not an easy one."

The judges selected one submission as the "Best Achievement." The winner of this year's distinction is Louisa County. Here's what Quarles had to say about Louisa County's entry titled "Teen Quest Special Program."

"I congratulate and commend Louisa County and its excellent program," Quarles said. "Louisa County experienced devastating effects from an earthquake last year. Its only high school was destroyed. Despite that, the county found a way to continue the education of its students and while doing so, it also uplifted the spirit of the community. Louisa County is truly deserving of the Best Achievement Award."

This was the eighth consecutive year Povar has served as judge. "This year the entries were particularly strong in community/economic development and regional collaboration," Povar said. "This tells me that counties are working together to improve their service delivery systems. Regional collaboration works, and counties are proud to show examples of it."

Blake, who served as judge in 2010, also raved about the quality of the entries. "As judges, we appreciate the time counties invest to prepare and submit award nominations," Blake said. "Many of these submissions required hours of detailed preparation to fully describe the project and its surrounding context. Counties understand it's important to be recognized for superior work, but it's even more vital to share innovative ideas and programs with each other. The Achievement Awards program allows counties and the public to view the creative work that's happening today in local government."

The VACo Achievement Awards is a competitive program open to local government members of the association. For more information, visit VACo's Achievement Awards website ([www.vaco.org/achievementawards.html](http://www.vaco.org/achievementawards.html)) where you can view all 2012 entries ([www.vaco.org/achievementawards2012.html](http://www.vaco.org/achievementawards2012.html)).

Visit [here for past winners](#) and [here for past judges](#).

Representatives from each of the award-winning counties will receive a certificate at an official ceremony during VACo's 2012 Annual Conference in November. Also, VACo will present 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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