

Winter 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1

PIEDMONT FUTURES News

Connecting Commerce to Classroom

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7th Grade Career Expo Great Success

PIEDMONT FUTURES was asked to help with this annual event at UVA's Newcomb Hall, held on Nov. 12th and 13th. **Lee Davis**, vocational planner for Charlottesville High School and **Sue Sheffield**, coordinator for Albemarle County Schools, with the assistance of a regional planning committee, organized the event. **PIEDMONT FUTURES** recruited business volunteers as presenters and exhibitors to all 7th-grade students from Charlottesville and Albemarle, Nelson, Fluvanna and Greene Counties. It was a busy two days as students entered the ballroom and made their way from table to table. Students gathered materials, heard from career speakers, and were awed by the

many options presented to them. The 200 exhibitors received breakfast, lunch, and water donated by **Kroger** and coffee courtesy of **Starbucks**. Many thanks to exhibitors from: **Albemarle County Geographic Data Services**, **Human Resources**, **Public Schools**, **Voter Registration and Water Resources**; **American Society of Civil Engineers**, **Associated General Contractors**, **Barton Malow**, **CATEC**, **Charlottesville Fire Dept**, **Crozet Eye Care**, **HighTech Signs**, **Martha Jefferson Hospital**, **Music Resource Center**, **Place Design in Context**, **PVCC Workforce Services**, **Scriptor Services & American Translators Assoc**, **SPCA**, **State Farm**, **Tenaska Virginia**

Generating Station, **Tuel Jewelers**, **UVA Community Credit Union**, **UVA Health System**, **UVA HealthSouth Rehab**, **UVA Dietetic Internship Program**, **Velocity Construction**, **VA Career Education Foundation**, **VDOT**, **VA Dept of Environmental Quality**, **Dept of Forestry**, **Dept of Mines, Minerals and Energy**, **Virginia Diodes**, **VA High School League**, **VA Museum of Natural History**, **WCAV-TV19** and **WVIR-TV29**. Presenters included representatives from: **GE Fanuc**, **LexisNexis**, **State Farm**, **WINA**, **Paladin Media Productions** and **Express Car Wash**. Almost 2000 7th-graders are now better prepared for picking a career path.

Nelson County News

PIEDMONT FUTURES put together a career panel to speak to 9th and 10th grade students at Nelson County High School. English teacher **Melissa Baker** wanted to highlight how English skills are used in everyday jobs. On Nov. 29th

and 30th, students listened as professionals described how important written and oral communication skills are in their fields. The students heard from a farmer, garden retailer, nurse, teacher, musician and an IT college professor. Now

students will be motivated to do their best and learn those much needed English skills!



Seniors Get Career Inspiration



Fluco seniors explore career options

Fluvanna County High School hosted its 2nd annual career fair for seniors on Oct. 17th. School counselor **Mary Bright** and career coach **Kathryn Ayers** worked with **PIEDMONT FUTURES** to bring 18 potential employers to the school. Students were guided to interact with representatives from **AccuBanc Mortgage, Central VA Elec-**

tric Cooperative, Chambers Land Surveying, Charlottesville Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Douglas Weiss-Optometrist, Health Nutz, Lake Monticello Rescue/ Albemarle Fire Rescue, LexisNexis, Montague Miller & Co, National Filter Service, Prospect Hill, Ruxton Health at the Village, State Farm, Virginia Community

Bank, Wal-Mart, Fluvanna County Health Dept, Fluvanna County Commonwealth's Attorney and VA Cooperative Extension-Nelson County. The fun continued with door prizes for students, followed by a delicious lunch for presenters, prepared by the students and staff of the Fluco Caf .

Upcoming Events

PIEDMONT FUTURES is currently recruiting speakers for the **Commonwealth Scholars Program.** Call us to see how you and your business can help motivate and inspire 8th-graders. Help them prepare for their future, with the skills, knowledge and discipline

they will need to be the workforce of the future. Speakers will receive training beginning in Jan. and talk to 8th-grade classes before they register for their high school classes. Together we can help these students reach their full potential.



From Competence to Excellence™



Lunch Time at Agnor-Hurt

Lunch on Wednesdays is now a fun, informative and interactive time for 5th-graders at Albemarle County's Agnor-Hurt Elementary School. **PIEDMONT FUTURES** has lined up a variety of speakers to share their education and career path, which led to their current job. This 20 minute commitment is rewarding for speakers, as they find many students express interest in "having a job like you", when they grow up. School counselor **Carol Fox** shared some of the students' re-

quests for speakers, which have varied from coal miner to lawyer to realtor. Speakers in 2007 included **SPCA vet Cheryl Graybush, Paladin film producer Denny King, Jeanne McCuster of Home Instead Senior Care, UVA Radiologist Jody Crane, Monticello archeologist Beth Clites, artist Rose Hill and UVA astronomer Ed Murphy.** This program has been very successful and will be expanded to Nelson's Tye River Elementary for 4th graders in 2008.



Artist Rose Hill fields 5th-grade student questions

"I was left speechless after learning so much. I hope you come back again, so we can learn some more about animals."

Agnor-Hurt 5th-grader, after hearing speaker from the SPCA

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www.pvcc.edu/futures

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Facility Tour

There are many careers in health care and Western Albemarle High School students were trying to see where they could fit into the picture as they were treated to a facility tour at **Martha Jefferson Hospital** this fall. Expressing an interest in

health care, these students got an inside look at the world of doctors, nurses, lab technicians, physical therapists and administrators. Seeing these busy professionals at work, students are able to see what careers might be in their future.



About *PIEDMONT FUTURES*...

PIEDMONT FUTURES engages local business and other organizations, in the education of school children in the surrounding communities. We are funded by the school systems of Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene and Nelson, in collaboration

with Piedmont Virginia Community College. Today's students face daunting choices, as to training and education, to be the workforce of the future. Schools cannot meet the growing career education need alone. **PIEDMONT FUTURES** is creating a community focus on ca-

reer education to better serve all area students and to offer a more comprehensive career exploration opportunity. We offer a coordinated regional approach to best match the needs of schools with the opportunities from businesses.

Your Business Can Help By:

- ✓ Hosting tours of your facilities
- ✓ Offering internships to 9-12th grade students
- ✓ Participating in Career Expos
- ✓ Supporting your employees as school volunteers, speakers, mentors or internship supervisors

