



Joint Industrial Development Authority

of Wythe County, Wytheville, and Rural Retreat

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PRESS RELEASE

Career Readiness Certificate Program Achieves Impressive Local Results

WYTHEVILLE—During the year following the 2006 Wytheville Job Fair, which heavily promoted Virginia's Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) program, the number of area certificate holders has increased dramatically. Almost 1,000 individuals within a 50-mile radius of Wytheville have now taken the tests required by the program, representing over 9% of all Virginians participating in the program. Depending on test results achieved, participants may receive a Bronze, Silver, or Gold Career Readiness Certificate. The percentage of regional test takers who received a CRC certificate was 90.1% compared with a success rate of 88.1% statewide. Approximately 80% of those receiving certificates regionally received either Silver or Gold Certificates. This compares with less than 69% of statewide certificate holders receiving either Silver or Gold certificates.

Virginia's Career Readiness Certificate is an assessment-based credential that gives employers and career seekers a uniform measure of key workplace skills. The three key skills areas that make up the CRC core competencies are applied math, reading for information, and locating information. Results of job assessments indicate that competencies in these core skills are required by 85% of profiled jobs in the United States. The Career Readiness Certificate has been endorsed by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Virginia Manufacturing Association, the Virginia AFL-CIO, the Virginia Community College System, and the Virginia Workforce Council. To learn more about Virginia's CRC program, visit www.crc.virginia.gov or contact Workforce Development Services at Wytheville Community College (276-223-4724).

A limited number of free WorkKeys assessments, normally \$45, will be available to individuals who register at the next Wytheville Job Fair to be held on April 13 and 14, 2007. More information on the upcoming Wytheville Job Fair can be found at www.WytheIDA.org/jobfair.htm.

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