



Media Alert

NOVEMBER 10, 2011

WESTERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL JAIL TO OFFER INNOVATIVE INMATE TRAINING PROGRAM

WHO: Western Virginia Regional Jail (WVRJ); Virginia Western Community College (VWCC); Virginia CARES; and Timothy J. Heaphy, United States Attorney, Western District of Virginia, representing the United States Department of Justice regarding Second Chance Act funding of this project

WHAT: WVRJ in partnership with VWCC and Virginia CARES, will begin offering an innovative inmate training program to be financed with Second Chance Act grant funds. The Second Chance Act authorizes federal grants to government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victims support, and other services that can help reduce recidivism.

The **TechCareers Program** will provide training in microcomputer systems technology to 25 adult inmates with mental health disorders returning to Southwest Virginia (the counties of Franklin, Montgomery, and Roanoke and the city of Salem). The program's purpose is to improve the employability of the targeted offenders by creating opportunities for long-term employment and career-building in high-growth, high-demand technology-based industries.

The **TechCareers Program** will target non-violent offenders with mental health disorders interested in microcomputer systems technology training. Participants will complete 36 weeks of technology-based training and receive up to four months of supported employment.

WHEN: Friday, November 18, at 2 p.m.

WHERE: Western Virginia Regional Jail, 5885 West River Road, Salem, Virginia

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ABOUT WESTERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL JAIL The Western Virginia Regional Jail is a state-of-the-art correctional facility located in the Dixie Caverns area of Roanoke County. The Regional Jail is accredited by the American Correctional Association and is LEED® Certified. To learn more, visit: www.wvarj.org.

ABOUT VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE Virginia Western Community College is committed to providing affordable, accessible, and quality educational opportunities and workforce training to meet individual, community, and global needs. To learn more, visit www.virginiawestern.edu.

ABOUT VIRGINIA CARES Virginia CARES maintains a statewide network of ex-offender reentry programs to provide a variety of ongoing support services to prisoners, ex-offenders, and their families in Virginia. To learn more, visit www.vacares.org.

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