

University of Virginia
Partnership with Southwest Virginia



Annual Report on Economic Development Action Plan
FY08

September 1, 2008

BACKGROUND:

As part of the restructuring management agreement with the Commonwealth, the University of Virginia (UVA) is required to establish a formal partnership with an economically distressed region in Virginia, and to “work meaningfully and visibly” to stimulate economic development in that region. UVA has selected the Coalfield region, and is partnering with the University of Virginia’s College at Wise and the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) in this effort.

The Coalfield region is defined as the area encompassed by VCEDA (Planning Districts 1 & 2). It includes the city of Norton and the counties of Lee, Scott, Wise, Dickenson, Russell, Tazewell, and Buchanan.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

The University submitted an economic development action plan to the Governor and General Assembly on December 20, 2006. In accordance with Article 2, Section 2.2.1, Part 3, UVA is required to submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly by September 1 of each year, outlining its progress in implementing the action plan during the prior fiscal year. This report covers activities for July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008 (FY08). It is the second annual progress report submitted to date.

ACTION PLAN SUMMARY:

We held extensive discussions with stakeholders in the Coalfield region to gain an understanding of the area’s goals and the barriers to achieving those goals. Southwest Virginia is focused on transforming their economy from one centered mainly on tobacco, coal, and timber harvesting to one that includes information technology, education, health care, and energy. To attract companies, local leaders recognize that they must have an infrastructure that includes an educated workforce, strong schools, and widespread access to medical care.

This context was used in developing UVA’s action plan. The three main categories for collaboration between UVA and Southwest Virginia include access to health care, support for K-12 education, and business support. A website dedicated to this collaboration can be found at: <http://www.virginia.edu/vprgs/industry/southwestva.html>

OVERVIEW

This annual report reflects the first full year of implementation of the University of Virginia's economic development action plan. Substantial progress was made in solidifying existing relationships and forging new connections. These bonds, based on trust and mutual respect, form the underpinning for a sustained and successful partnership. Engagement necessitates an interactive dialogue among equal partners and a regular and visible presence to ensure a long-term relationship.

We made important strides in each of the focus areas. In partnership with UVA's College at Wise, public and private health care agencies, regional educational institutions, and government, we are working toward the development and implementation of a single, integrated strategic health plan for the region. We continue to improve health education for health professionals and patients and have increased access to specialty care through expanded telemedicine programs and additional specialty field clinics. UVA clinicians provided more than 2,600 direct patient encounters, over 3,800 teleradiology encounters, and over 100 telemedicine encounters to patients from the Coalfields. In addition, clinicians treated more than 1,700 residents at Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic events. Progress on the health plan for the region and increased access to specialty care services will ideally result in a decreased need for residents to obtain health care at large-scale, annual venues such as RAM.

Other related initiatives include expanded access to broadband for telemedicine activities, provision of flu vaccines, cancer care outreach, continuing medical education, medical conference speakers, education for persons with diabetes and related health care providers, outreach librarian services for access to quality health information, funding for community-based participatory research, and tobacco prevention studies.

Over 35 teachers are currently enrolled in M.Ed. or Ed.S. degree programs in either instruction or administration and supervision. Classes are held in Southwest Virginia and are taught by faculty from UVA, UVA's College at Wise, and school administrators from Region 7 school divisions. In coordination with the Center for Teaching Excellence at UVA's College at Wise and the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, UVA supported teachers through over 1,500 professional development interactions, including training workshops, symposia, reading initiatives, student assessment score data storage and reporting, and toll-free hotlines.

Additional K-12 activities include establishment of communities of practice for excellence for school leaders through the SCOPE Southwest program, support for the new Governor's Regional Career and Technical Academy in Russell County (*STEM for LIFE*), and on-site workshops for professional development for teachers, including targeted programs for phonological awareness, preschool language development, and reading interventions, teaching quality, foreign language instruction, writing, mathematics, and science. A large collaborative effort for teaching American history will provide middle and high school teachers with in-depth courses, materials, and other support for enhanced instruction. Middle school math teachers received manipulatives

and other materials for extending their learning from a Math Science Partnership course into the classroom. The Office of Admissions conducted a number of programs for students, parents, and guidance counselors to increase awareness of *AccessUVA* and to provide information on the admissions process.

To support the Coalfield region as it seeks to diversify its economy, UVA is working with partners to build capacity in management and technology. We are providing curriculum expertise and resources to support the launch of a management development program at the new Southwest Virginia Technology Development Center in Lebanon, VA, an initiative of UVA's College at Wise. The kickoff management training session, *Meeting the Leadership Challenge*, was held at the Center in May, and was led by a UVA adjunct faculty member. Through financial support, UVA made it possible for two residents from the Coalfield region to participate in LEAD Virginia, a seven-month educational experience for proven leaders who wish to learn more about state-wide issues. UVA is working to extend its distance education engineering program, PRODUCED in Virginia, to Southwest Virginia.

Even as we consider our activities over the past year, we recognize that many challenges still endure. As we move forward, the University's approach will continue to remain the same: work closely with local leaders to identify areas where we can leverage UVA's strengths and capabilities to help achieve continuous improvement in the health, education, and prosperity of the region. We believe that this engagement with the Coalfield region is mutually beneficial; additional knowledge acquired by each stakeholder will increase the capacity of all partners to address these complex issues.

Detail on each focus area is listed below. The programs represent the collective efforts of hundreds of collaborative partners, including residents and leaders in Southwest Virginia, as well as UVA faculty, students, and staff. We gratefully acknowledge the dedication and valuable contributions of all partners in this effort.

PROGRESS REPORT

1. Access to Health Care

<i>Goal:</i>	Improve access to health care in Southwest Virginia
<i>Metric:</i>	Number of patient encounters Number of health education interactions (including patients, health care professionals, and students)
<i>Primary partners:</i>	Southwest Graduate Medical Education Consortium, UVA's College at Wise, St. Mary's Health Wagon, Southwest Virginia Health Facilities Authority, Virginia Department of Health (LENOWISCO and Cumberland Plateau Planning Districts and Southwest Virginia Care Connection for Children), Virginia Health

Care Association, Southwest Virginia Community Health System, Stone Mountain Health Services, Virginia Community Health Care Association, Mountain Empire Older Citizens

Access to Health Care Programs:

- **Healthy Appalachia**

Healthy Appalachia is a collaborative planning process funded through a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The grant calls for the development of a strategic plan for improving the health of people in the Cumberland Plateau and LENOWISCO planning districts of Virginia and the creation of an institute charged with conceiving and planning initiatives to remedy persistent health problems in central Appalachia.

UVA Contribution: UVA's College at Wise received the ARC grant in 2007 and issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an organization to collect regional health data, organize and lead a planning process, identify and enlist key stakeholders, and draft goals and objectives for the regional plan. UVA's Master of Public Health Program in the Department of Public Health Sciences submitted a proposal to provide leadership and resources for the planning process; the proposal was accepted in the summer of 2007. In guiding this effort, UVA contributed significant in-kind services on the part of faculty and graduate students, as well as financial cost-sharing.

Healthy Appalachia was approved to serve as a consultant and resource for the newly formed Southwest Virginia Health Facilities Authority for the LENOWISCO and Cumberland Plateau planning districts. Population demographics and health data information, and the results of Healthy Appalachia's strategic planning process, were shared at Authority meetings. This informed the development of vision and mission statements for the Authority, as well as near, intermediate, and long-term goals. Karen Rheuban, M.D., is UVA's designated member serving on the Authority, representing the dean of the School of Medicine.

Status: The first phase of data collection and analysis is complete, and a public website has been launched (www.healthyappalachia.org) to serve as the central repository for health data and reports. Initial planning efforts, including the analysis by regional health care leaders of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, are being used to develop the strategic plan goals, objectives, and outcomes. An inventory of health resources is being developed. All efforts are in conjunction with the Health Facilities Authority.

The Healthy Appalachia coordinating team is continuing the development of an infrastructure to ensure implementation of a strategic plan and integration with the Authority's efforts. This includes: 1) enhanced collection and analysis of the region's population demographics, including economic, education, and health data; 2) facilitation of an implementation process with key stakeholders driven by this data; and, 3) development of on-going resources for the project.

The Health Facilities Authority, with the support of Healthy Appalachia, plans to produce a single, cohesive regional strategic plan, tentatively scheduled to be presented to the Appalachian Regional Commission in the fall of 2008. In addition, the Authority has established funding, and plans are currently underway for the development of a new dental facility in Wise. As part of this resource, space is being created to accommodate select adult and pediatric specialty medical clinics.

- **Adult Specialty Clinics**

The UVA Health System provides direct clinical care in Southwest Virginia to address the existing gap in certain adult medical specialties. Clinics are located in Tazewell, Wise, Clinchco, and Bristol.

UVA Contribution: In FY2008, the UVA Health System offered on-site physician services in Southwest Virginia through clinics in neurology, nephrology, and pulmonology. A team of neurologists conducted monthly clinics for patients with epilepsy and seizure disorders, a pulmonologist offered quarterly visits with a focus on cystic fibrosis, and a nephrologist provided care to patients with renal diseases, hypertension, and diabetes.

Status: The UVA neurology clinic continues to provide services in the region on a monthly basis in sites in Tazewell, Wise, and Bristol. Pulmonology continues to provide services in Washington County for cystic fibrosis patients from throughout the region. The nephrology clinic, initiated in 2007, continued to provide services throughout 2008 in Clinchco with telemedicine follow-up care.

Diabetes treatment has been identified as a major need for the region. To address this need, UVA is working with St. Mary's Health Wagon and the Wise County Health Department to establish an endocrinology specialty clinic to begin in the fall of 2008. To support this effort, UVA has purchased clinic supplies and equipment.

<i>Number of patient encounters:</i>	Neurology	643
	Nephrology	153
	<u>Pulmonology</u>	<u>44</u>
	Total	840

- **Pediatric Subspecialty Clinics**

The UVA Health System conducts pediatric subspecialty clinics throughout Southwest Virginia through Care Connection for Children, a program sponsored by the Virginia Department of Health.

UVA Contribution: UVA provides physicians, nurses, and other staff for pediatric subspecialty clinics at multiple Southwest Virginia sites. Clinics include: neurology, cystic fibrosis, cardiology, maxillofacial, neuro-developmental, orthopaedics, and genetics.

Status: Ongoing.

Number of patient encounters:

Child Neurology	594
Cystic Fibrosis	90
Neurodevelopment	183
Orthopaedic	141
Peds Cardiology	92
Genetics	178
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Total	1,278

- **Telemedicine**

The UVA Health System has a long history of providing specialty clinical services and health education to the residents of far Southwest Virginia through an extensive network of telemedicine sites within rural hospitals, health departments, correctional facilities, and community health centers.

UVA Contribution: UVA expanded the number of telemedicine sites in the region by securing \$183,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with additional federal appropriations and support by the Verizon Foundation and the Tobacco Indemnification Commission. This includes a new site in Haysi, opened in May 2008. Additional sites to be opened in the fall of 2008 include Tazewell and Big Stone Gap's Mountain Laurel Cancer Support and Resource Center. This expanded network will enable health care providers in the Coalfield region to more readily access health education and specialty care from the UVA Health System.

The new funding has also helped to establish the Southwest Virginia Telemedicine Cancer Outreach Program, which extends access to cancer screening, education, prevention, and clinical trials throughout the region. This effort includes breast and cervical cancer screening using UVA's digital mammography van in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health's *Every Woman's Life* program. This funding also helps establish collaborative care at the new regional cancer center at Johnston Memorial Hospital through tumor boards and access to cancer clinical trials.

The UVA Health System also provides a teleradiology link to Southwest Virginia to support radiology at local hospitals with radiologic reviews after-hours and for complex cases. In FY2008, UVA provided services to Buchanan General, Norton, and Tazewell community hospitals.

Status: UVA currently connects with over 60 telemedicine sites across the Commonwealth; 26 sites are in Southwest Virginia with 12 sites located within the Coalfields. This establishes the Coalfield region as one of the most well-connected telemedicine regions in the country. In FY2008, clinical specialty services were provided

in dermatology, endocrinology, hepatology, infectious disease, nephrology, neurology ophthalmology, pediatric cardiology, psychiatry, and surgery.

Number of patient encounters (via telemedicine): 111 patient encounters occurred in the Coalfield counties and the city of Norton in FY2008; an additional 304 patient encounters occurred through telemedicine in the surrounding counties of Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Smyth, and Washington and the city of Bristol.

Number of patient encounters (via teleradiology): 3,865 teleradiology services were provided in the Coalfield counties.

- **Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Award**

Working with partners across the Commonwealth, UVA's Office of Telemedicine received an FCC pilot award to expand and enhance broadband access for rural health care providers. This award of \$2.7 million over three years was made in November 2007.

UVA Contribution: UVA is the legal and fiscal agent for this award for the Commonwealth of Virginia. UVA is leading the process to identify potential hospitals and health care centers for broadband access/expansion and is helping to refine the process for awards with the FCC.

Status: UVA is currently coordinating the process for deployment of expanded/enhanced broadband to designated sites, collaborating with health care providers and broadband service providers. This includes working with health care facilities in the Coalfield region.

Once deployed, this award will enable qualified hospitals and health care centers to establish or improve broadband capabilities for telemedicine and other uses at reduced costs.

- **Flu Vaccines for St. Mary's Health Wagon**

UVA has a long-term relationship with St. Mary's Health Wagon, a mobile clinic that offers free, quality, and compassionate health care to people in the rural mountains of Appalachia. UVA and Southern Health collaborated to donate flu vaccines to patients served by St. Mary's Health Wagon.

UVA Contribution: UVA worked with Southern Health to provide 491 doses of the influenza virus vaccine to St. Mary's Health Wagon, to be administered to patients who might otherwise be unable to receive the vaccine.

Status: Vaccines were express mailed to St. Mary's Health Wagon in Clinchco, Virginia in December 2007.

Number of patient encounters: 491

- **Cancer Outreach – Virginia Cancer Plan Action Coalition**

The Virginia Cancer Plan Action Coalition (CPAC) is a public-private partnership which engages key stakeholders in cancer prevention and control in Virginia. The Virginia Department of Health is a contributing member organization. The mission of the CPAC is to “join forces for cancer control...and eliminate preventable cancers and minimize the burden of cancer.” CPAC helps write and implement the Virginia Cancer Plan.

UVA Contribution: The UVA Cancer Center plays a leadership role in CPAC, with staff serving as co-chair and a faculty member chairing the treatment team. CPAC gives special attention to engaging Southwest Virginia partners; five members of the CPAC Advisory Board are from Southwest Virginia. The Office of Telemedicine has provided critical help to develop videoconferencing sites for the quarterly meetings, which includes an ongoing site in Big Stone Gap. The March 2008 quarterly meeting was held in Big Stone Gap.

Status: Quarterly meetings in FY09 will also be broadcast to the Big Stone Gap site. A new state cancer control plan for 2008-2012 will be issued in fall 2008. A comprehensive statewide conference on cancer control will be held November 2008.

Number of health education interactions: 29 people on-site in Big Stone Gap

- **Continuing Medical Education**

The Office of Continuing Medical Education (CME) of the University of Virginia School of Medicine continues its long history of providing educational initiatives to physicians and health care professionals throughout Southwest Virginia. Through a wide variety of educational activities, including live conferences, ongoing lecture series, and telemedicine educational sessions, the Office of Continuing Medical Education provides physicians and health care professionals independent and evidence-based education that is awarded AMA Category 1 creditTM.

UVA Contribution: Over the past year, the UVA CME office provided on-going continuing education through its affiliates in the region, including affiliates who serve patients in the Coalfields, even if not specifically located within Planning Districts 1 and 2. These partners include the Salem Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute, Johnston Memorial Hospital, and Buchanan General Hospital. These ongoing programs included medical, pediatric, cardiologic, and psychiatric grand rounds. Specialized non-CME poison control programs were also offered in Buchanan, Tazewell, and Norton. A conference in pediatric infectious disease was also held at the Southwest Higher Education Center in Abingdon.

Status: Continuing medical and health care education is ongoing.

Number of physician credit hours awarded: 1,277

Number of non-physician health care professional credit hours awarded: 836

- **"Head for the Hills" Annual Rural Medical Conference**

Organized by the Graduate Medical Education Consortium (GMEC), this annual, rural medical conference is held in Dickenson County at Breaks Interstate Park. It is a three-day continuing medical education event attended by physicians and residents in primary care.

UVA Contribution: A speaker is provided by the UVA Health System to lecture on a topic relevant to primary care physicians.

Status: Ross Isaacs, M.D., spoke at the October 2007 conference on rural medical care.

Number of health education interactions: 97

- **Diabetes Tele-Education Classes for Physicians and Other Diabetes Care Providers**

Three UVA programs—the Virginia Center for Diabetes Professional Education (VCDPE), the Office of Continuing Medical Education, and the Office of Telemedicine—partnered with the Virginia Department of Health’s Office of Minority Health and Public Policy to provide continuing medical education (CME) on critical diabetes topics to physicians and nurse practitioners in rural southwestern Virginia.

UVA Contribution: UVA broadcast three live, one-hour seminars on topics previously presented to local, national, and international audiences by the faculty of the VCDPE. Topics included: New Medications: Orals and Insulin (April), Insulin Adjustment Strategies (May), and Progression of Therapy in Type 2 Diabetes (June). All programs included case-based teaching and the opportunity for live interaction and discussion.

Status: All presentations were offered to health departments, small hospitals, and community health centers in Wise, Scott, Lee, Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, and Tazewell counties as well as the city of Norton.

Number of sites participating: 1 in April, 1 in May, 2 in June

Number of health education interactions: 39

Person-hours of education provided: 39

Professional education credits awarded: 23

10 practicing physicians each received 1 hour of AMA PRA Category 1 credit

13 health care providers (non-physicians) each received 1 continuing education unit (CEU) credit

- **Diabetes Tele-Education Classes for Persons with Diabetes and Their Families**

Three UVA programs—The Virginia Center for Diabetes Professional Education, the UVA Diabetes Education and Management Program (DEMP), and the Office of Telemedicine—partnered with the Virginia Department of Health’s Office of Minority Health and Public Policy to provide diabetes education classes to patients with little or no access to diabetes education in rural southwestern Virginia.

UVA Contribution: UVA broadcast live education classes taught by Certified Diabetes Educators in the DEMP classroom at Fontaine Research Park. Classes included a basic overview of diabetes (3 hours), introduction to nutrition (3 hours), basic carbohydrate counting (2 hours), and tools for weight loss (2 hours).

Status: All classes were offered in the months of March, April, and May 2008 (three times) to sites in Wise, Scott, Lee, Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, and Tazewell counties. Health departments received programs in March, while small community hospitals and community health centers received programs in April and May.

Number of sites participating: 3 in March, 2 in April, 2 in May

Number of health education interactions: 147

Hours of educational broadcasts: 30

Person-hours of education provided: 370

- **Outreach Librarian Services**

UVA Health Sciences offers access to quality health information through an outreach program based at the University of Virginia’s College at Wise.

UVA Contribution: A professional librarian position located at UVA’s College at Wise is fully funded by the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library at the University of Virginia. The goal is to help local health care providers, community agencies, and the general public access quality health information while also supporting the health information needs of nursing and science students at UVA’s College at Wise.

During FY08, public health informatics training was provided to local public health professionals, through funding by the National Network of Libraries of Medicine. Training is also delivered to local public libraries so that these organizations can assist their clientele in finding quality health information.

Status: Program has been funded since 1995 and is ongoing.

Number of health education interactions: 993

- **Office of University Community Partnerships**

UVA's Office of University Community Partnerships initiated a new program in early 2008 to seek competitive grants designed to support student projects which connect public service to academic life through research. Community partners write letters of support endorsing the proposed research project and explaining how the results may further the organization's mission.

UVA Contribution: The grants target projects that are geographically located in the city of Charlottesville or the Coalfield region of Virginia. The grants are internally funded by UVA. Students and faculty provide data collection, analysis, and recommendations.

Status: UVA's Office of University Community Partnerships has funded two grants based in Southwest Virginia:

1. A 3rd year biomedical engineering student will conduct a project during summer 2008 in conjunction with St. Mary's Health Wagon in Clinchco Virginia. The project is titled: *A Statistical Analysis of the Medically Underserved in Southwest Virginia.*

2. A faculty academic-community engagement fellow grant was awarded to faculty in the Department of Public Health Sciences to teach a course titled, *Healthy Appalachia.* This course for graduate public health students will examine the relationship between Appalachian culture, economic development, education, and health in far Southwest Virginia and will explore the process for collaborative, community-based research.

The community partners are UVA's College at Wise, the Southwest Virginia Graduate Medical Education Consortium, the Southwest Virginia Health Facilities Authority and Health Departments in Planning Districts 1 & 2.

- **Tobacco Use Prevention Project**

UVA's School of Nursing is conducting a study on tobacco use prevention as part of an evolving collaborative, interdisciplinary, and multi-institutional research program focused on protective factors and adolescent non-smoking in order to design/test interventions for youth tobacco use prevention.

UVA Contribution: A pilot study of male adolescent nonsmokers and nonusers of smokeless tobacco and their parents in two tobacco-producing counties in Virginia (Charlotte County and Dickenson County) is being funded by the NIH-funded Rural Health Care Research Center at UVA. A prior study of female adolescent non-smokers, funded by the UVA-Virginia Tech-Carilion Collaborative Small Grants Program, was completed in 2007.

Status: Charlotte County interviews have been completed; Clintwood and Dickenson County interviews are in process.

- **Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic in Wise**

The RAM-Wise clinic offers free medical care to over 3,000 people from Southwest Virginia and surrounding states. The clinic is held at the Virginia-Kentucky Fairground in Wise, VA, over a three-day period.

UVA Contribution: UVA provided supplies, time, and coordination of over 150 faculty, staff, and students from the Schools of Medicine and Nursing and the Medical Center.

UVA offered digital mammography, neurological screening, colon cancer screening, ENT, audiology services, gynecological procedures, and comprehensive screening for diabetes and hypertension. UVA also had physicians on call for telemedicine appointments, a two-way remote method for consulting in real-time on a variety of medical conditions. Patients at RAM are able to receive follow up treatment via telemedicine. UVA paid for or was responsible for collecting all the drugs that were dispensed and our pharmacy was the coordinator for that service.

Status: Completed July 20-22, 2007. The UVA Health System Community Outreach received the 2008 Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Award for Government for their contribution to RAM.

Number of patients treated: 1,605

Number of patient encounters: 7,165 general medicine encounters

Number of prescriptions filled: 1,152

Number of prescription vouchers distributed: 458

Note: This is an ongoing activity. It serves to demonstrate need, but is not viewed as a long-term solution for access to health care in Southwest Virginia.

- **Mini Remote Area Medical (RAM) Clinic in Buchanan County**

This Mini-RAM clinic offers free medical care to approximately 100 patients in Grundy.

UVA Contribution: UVA provided supplies, time, and coordination of 30-40 faculty, staff, and students from the Schools of Medicine and Nursing and the Medical Center.

Status: Completed October 13-14, 2007

Number of patient encounters: 136

2. K-12 Education

Goal: Support teacher and student development in grades K-12

Metric: Number of teacher interactions
Number of student interactions

Primary partners: Center for Teaching Excellence, UVA's College at Wise, Wise County Public Schools, Russell County Public Schools, "Pathways" Governor's Regional Career and Technical Academy, Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center

K-12 Education Programs:

Project LEAD (Leadership Enhancement and Development)

Project LEAD is the overarching title of a major grant effort designed to build a solid infrastructure for K-12 education instruction and leadership. This fully integrated initiative encompasses both degree and non-degree programs. The degree programs include M.Ed. and Ed.S. level coursework in administration and supervision. The non-degree component includes leadership development and provisions for developing a community of practice that will be sustained long after involvement by any one institution. The components of Project LEAD are described below:

- **M.Ed. and Ed.S., Administration and Supervision**

This degree program is designed for individuals seeking pre K-12 endorsement in school administration and supervision, or an advanced degree, with or without endorsement. In brief, it prepares teachers for administrative roles.

UVA Contribution: School of Continuing and Professional Studies provided program design and implementation, as well as academic and administrative coordination. UVA faculty from the Curry School of Education teach selected classes.

Status: Curriculum design is complete and program was launched August 2007. Program has 25 participants, including 9 who are working on an education specialist degree. Classes are being taught in Abingdon and Wise County.

Number of teacher interactions: 25 participants in cohort

- **SCOPE Southwest (Statewide Communities of Practice for Excellence)**

This program is designed to develop effective leadership skills for intact cohorts of individuals from participating school divisions. It provides continued professional growth for administrators while establishing communities of practice for excellence.

UVA Contribution: School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS) co-planned the program with Southwest Virginia superintendents and wrote the technical portion of the grant (rationale, content of seminars, schedule, and demonstration of coherence with formal master's degree program). SCPS faculty and distinguished practitioners from across Virginia are part of the teaching team and provide academic and administrative coordination.

Status: Program design was completed and course was launched September 2007. There are 26 members of this cohort from Southwest Virginia. Classes are being taught in Abingdon and the counties of Wise, Russell, Smyth, and Washington.

Number of teacher interactions: 26 participants in cohort

- **M.Ed., Instruction**

This degree program is designed primarily for individuals who want to broaden their knowledge of instructional practices. In brief, it takes good teachers and makes them better.

UVA Contribution: Curry School of Education and the School of Continuing and Professional Studies provided program design and implementation, as well as academic and administrative coordination. UVA faculty members teach selected classes while outstanding senior regional educators teach others. UVA subsidizes this program so that it can be offered in the Coalfield region.

Status: Curriculum design is complete and course was launched October 2007. Program has 16 participants. Classes are being taught in Abingdon and Wise, and are also open to teachers looking for professional development opportunities.

Number of teacher interactions: 16 participants in cohort

- **STEM for LIFE (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math for Life-Long Initiatives for Future Education) Governor's Regional Career and Technical Academy**

Russell County will host STEM for LIFE, one of six Governor's Career and Technical Academies in the state. Each received \$20,000 in planning grants from the Virginia Department of Education. The STEM for LIFE Academy, based in Lebanon, Virginia, will provide instruction in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to expand options for students and equip them with knowledge, skills, and credentials required for the 21st century workplace.

UVA Contribution: UVA attended a Virginia Department of Education meeting in Richmond with Russell County Public Schools to demonstrate support. UVA also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Russell County Public Schools on February 26, 2008, which outlines the relationship as follows:

- UVA will have a designated representative on the Advisory Council to make decisions regarding the operation of the STEM for LIFE Academy and to supervise UVA's efforts under this MOU.
- UVA will make available courses for middle school teachers during the summer of 2008 through Virginia's Middle Mathematics Grant Project. Each course is a 3-credit hour graduate level mathematics course designed to deepen content knowledge and pedagogical knowledge for middle school math teachers.
- UVA will offer a complimentary needs assessment workshop for regional instructional leaders to develop a compendium of information about mathematics programs currently in use, additional mathematics resources being used, and mathematics professional development that has been offered in recent years. Based on this information, UVA representatives will offer to assist instructional leaders in identifying gaps that can be addressed.
- UVA can provide leadership and expertise in developing and implementing other mathematics learning opportunities for teachers and administrators.

Status: The STEM for LIFE Governor's Career and Technical Academy presented its plan to the Virginia Department of Education on June 19, 2008. Plan implementation of the Academy is underway.

Number of teacher interactions: n/a (Academy was in the planning stages during FY08)

- **Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS)**

UVA's Center for Advanced Studies in Teaching and Learning (CASTL) developed CLASS, an observational measurement tool that can be adapted to deliver a targeted program of professional development for teaching quality, integrated with early childhood curricula. The CLASS-based professional development approach has been used by dozens of school systems across the nation. Several states are using CLASS as part of their Quality Rating System (QRS) for observing classroom quality. This professional development model provides a formative evaluation of social/emotional teacher-child interactions, classroom management techniques, and instructional strategies.

UVA Contribution: CASTL representatives met with the Wise County Public Schools instructional leadership team to discuss the CLASS model for professional development and how it might be effectively used by resource teachers to support elementary school teachers. This workshop, taught by a UVA faculty member, was held in April 2008. Workshop materials and manuals were purchased and provided to Wise County schools at no charge. A video library depicting best classroom practices is available to Wise County Public Schools at no charge.

Status: CASTL has offered to review this professional development model with elementary school principals, which is seen as an important next step to continuing to

incorporate CLASS-based professional development into Wise County's professional development framework.

Number of teacher interactions: 5 resource teachers participated in this workshop; they support a total of 108 elementary school teachers throughout Wise County.

- **Teacher Workshop: Cine con Clase!**

This program, developed by the UVA Center for the Liberal Arts, uses technology to enhance classroom instruction of foreign languages. Aimed at high school students and their teachers, the Cine con Clase! curriculum features one- to two-minute clips from 25 different foreign language films along with additional content, ranging from scripts to vocabulary to suggested activities and exercises.

UVA Contribution: UVA conducted a hands-on workshop for foreign language teachers in the use of Cine con Clase! This workshop was held in Wise, Virginia. Spanish and French teachers from throughout the Coalfield region attended, as did students from UVA's College at Wise who will be teaching foreign languages in the near future. Also in attendance were faculty from UVA's College at Wise, who will be able to use these resources in teaching undergraduates. Access to the site, which includes film clips and suggested activities and exercises, was provided to participants free of charge.

Status: Workshop was conducted by UVA faculty in April 2008. The extremely favorable response to this session indicated that there is a desire for additional training in the future.

Number of teacher interactions: 20 workshop participants

- **Teaching American History**

UVA, UVA's College at Wise, and the Southwest Virginia Public Education Consortium (comprised of 16 school systems) applied for a \$1 million grant from the Department of Education to enhance middle and high school efforts to teach American history. This program provides history teachers with in-depth courses, materials, and other support to allow better teaching of Colonial, Civil War, and Cold War periods of American history.

UVA Contribution: UVA's Center for the Liberal Arts provided leadership and coordination among University groups and offered guidance on program development. UVA's Miller Center will offer courses on the Cold War period and provide credits through the School of Continuing and Professional Studies. UVA doctoral students in history will serve as research assistants for participating teachers. The Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) will conduct the program evaluation to determine the impact of the grant on teachers and students.

Status: Grant was awarded April 2008 for \$992,501, for a three-year period beginning July 1, 2008.

Number of teacher interactions: n/a (Program will begin in FY09)

- **Middle School Math Collaboration**

As part of the Coalfield Counties Math Science Partnership, UVA's College at Wise conducted a class, held in Dickenson and Russell counties, for middle school math teachers in the Coalfield region during spring 2008. This program provided teachers with a strong foundation in teaching pre-algebra and algebra. UVA partnered with the College at Wise by providing supplementary classroom materials for participating teachers.

UVA Contribution: UVA purchased classroom sets of math manipulatives and other supporting materials for each of the middle school math teachers in the program. Instructional leaders from Russell County identified appropriate materials to maximize the extension of learning from the course to the classroom.

Status: Classroom sets of educational materials were purchased for each of the 36 class participants and distributed June 2008.

Number of teacher interactions: 36 teachers (who teach approximately 1,840 students) received classroom sets of teaching materials

- **Children and Teachers Together (CHATT)**

CHATT is funded by the Department of Education, and is a two-year program aimed at increasing the conversational responsiveness of teachers to at-risk pre-school children. This year activities included:

1. Follow-up of a previously selected cohort of children in their kindergarten year in order to administer post-test measures of child language and learning characteristics.
2. Development of a suitable behavior check list to measure study teachers' successful use of strategies designed to encourage conversation with preschool children.
3. Development of a research tool to analyze narrative-based language samples collected from the child subjects at three time points over the course of the project.

UVA Contribution: Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, UVA provided teachers in Buchanan County Head Start classrooms with high quality professional development focused on preschool language development, a \$100 stipend, a digital video camera for recording small group activity sessions, a \$150 classroom materials account, and a \$150 education account.

Status: This project is now closed to new subjects and is in a data analysis phase.

Number of teacher interactions: 10 Head Start teachers from Buchanan County

Number of student interactions: 80 children in 10 Head Start classrooms

- **Professional Development Course in Astronomy**

UVA's Department of Astronomy, the Curry School of Education, and the Virginia School-University Partnership at the University of Virginia are collaborating with school divisions in Central and Southwest Virginia to develop and offer the *Space Science for Teachers* professional development class during the 2008-2009 academic year. The course will cover all astronomy, space science, and nature of science SOLs for grades 4-9 and will serve 20 teachers. Participants will learn how to address the Virginia Science SOLs using hands-on, inquiry based approaches to space science instruction. The participants will also develop skills and pedagogical approaches to using innovative technologies in the classroom, such as an inflatable planetarium, astronomy planetarium software, and computer-driven telescopes. The class will be taught as a blend of face-to-face meetings in Central and Southwest Virginia and online lessons and assignments using an online course management system.

UVA Contribution: UVA faculty helped to develop the course and write the grant. The Astronomy Department will be hosting a visit to McCormick Observatory by the 20 teachers, and eight small telescopes from the Astronomy Department will be employed to show the teachers how to use a small telescope and how to locate objects in the sky.

Status: Grant was awarded spring 2008, and classes will begin January 2009 and run for several months.

Number of teacher interactions: n/a (Registration for classes to begin fall 2008.)

- **Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS)**

PALS - I. State Initiative: Early Intervention Reading Initiative (EIRI)

Virginia's Early Intervention Reading Initiative serves K-3 students in Virginia public schools. All students are assessed with the Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS), developed by Dr. Marcia Invernizzi (Curry School of Education) and colleagues at UVA, which provides information for effective literacy instruction. Students not meeting the PALS benchmarks are provided 2 ½ hours of additional literacy instruction under the initiative.

UVA Contribution: PALS is the state-provided assessment for the EIRI and was developed by Dr. Marcia Invernizzi and colleagues at UVA. The PALS Office at UVA supports over 14,000 Virginia teachers by providing the following resources at no charge: assessment materials, an online score entry and reporting system, interpretive reports to help teachers drive instruction and monitor student progress over time, and storage of student assessment scores for school districts. In addition, the PALS office responds to questions from educators on a daily basis via a toll-free hotline and email.

Status: All eight school districts in the Coalfield region have participated in the EIRI since 1997 and have signed on to participate for the 2008-2009 school year.

Number of teacher interactions: 531 teachers supported by PALS Office at UVA

Number of student interactions: 7,400 students assessed using PALS

PALS - II. Early Intervention Reading Initiative (EIRI) Symposium

The EIRI Symposium is an annual conference sponsored collaboratively by UVA's PALS and Reading First offices, and the Virginia Department of Education. The goal of this one-day symposium is to help school divisions use PALS data to plan differentiated reading instruction. The symposium is open to teams of six participants from each school division, including the PALS division representative, elementary school principals, and elementary school reading teachers.

UVA Contribution: UVA Curry School faculty and doctoral students conducted small group sessions on using PALS data to drive literacy instruction. This event was held in Charlottesville, and teachers and administrators from throughout the Coalfield region attended. Attendees received various resources that highlighted effective teaching strategies, including a free textbook by the featured speaker.

Status: The EIRI Symposium was held in March of 2008. The response to the symposium was overwhelmingly positive and the event is scheduled to be held for a third consecutive year in March 2009.

Number of teacher interactions: 48 participants in EIRI Symposium

PALS - III. Teacher Professional Development Workshop: PALS Assessment Training (Tazewell County)

The Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening (PALS), developed by Dr. Marcia Invernizzi (Curry School of Education) and colleagues at UVA, is the universal screening tool for Virginia's Early Intervention Reading Initiative (EIRI). The assessment provides important instructional information for teachers and identifies students in need of additional literacy instruction. In addition, the PALS Office at UVA develops and maintains an online score entry and reporting system for the assessment which provides teachers, principals, and district personnel with immediate interpretive reports.

UVA Contribution: UVA faculty conducted the workshop in Tazewell County during teacher pre-service work week. Presenters discussed how to administer the assessment and how best to use assessment data to guide literacy instruction. Teachers learned about the new interactive features of the PALS website (<http://pals.virginia.edu>) to help plan literacy instruction.

Status: Workshop was conducted in Tazewell County by UVA faculty in August 2008.

Number of teacher interactions: 107 workshop participants

PALS - IV. Teacher Professional Development Workshop: Regional PALS Assessment Training

This workshop trained K-3 teachers in the proper administration of the Phonological Assessment Literacy Screening for kindergarten (PALS-K) and for grades 1-3 (PALS 1-3). The workshop served teachers who were new to Virginia and/or new to teaching and had never given the PALS assessment.

UVA Contribution: The PALS office at the Curry School of Education conducted two workshops for kindergarten through third grade teachers on the administration of the PALS assessment and use of the PALS Online Score Entry and Reporting System. The workshops were held in Abingdon at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center. A total of 55 teachers from throughout the Coalfield region attended the workshop.

Status: UVA faculty conducted the workshops in April 2008. The very favorable response to this session indicated a desire for additional professional development opportunities in the future if funds are available.

Number of teacher interactions: 55 participants in workshop

- **Financial Aid Awareness Workshop**

UVA's dean of admissions joined his counterparts from Harvard and Princeton for a national recruiting tour that focused on efforts to make their universities more accessible for all families, especially those with modest incomes. UVA, Harvard, and Princeton ended early admission practices this year in an effort to make the admissions process as fair as possible. This recruiting trip was one of the many ways UVA is reaching out to a broader pool of students.

UVA Contribution: UVA sent a team of admissions staff, including the dean of admissions, to Abingdon and Bluefield where they hosted evening programs for parents and students, as well as morning breakfasts for guidance counselors from neighboring high schools.

Status: Completed November 2007.

Number of teacher interactions: 17 guidance counselors participated

Number of student interactions: 180 students and parents participated

- **Undergraduate Admissions Outreach**

UVA's Office of Undergraduate Admissions is committed to ensuring that high school students from across the Commonwealth have access to information about the UVA

admissions process. This initiative includes efforts to encourage residents from Southwest Virginia to apply to the University.

UVA Contribution: During FY08, the dean of admissions conducted nine high school visits, held three evening information programs, and hosted guidance counselors from the region for dinner on two occasions. Announcements were placed in the local newspapers inviting the community to evening programs. Students who attended the sessions received a follow-up letter from the dean of admissions which outlined the philosophy of the *AccessUVA* program and the related procedures for applying. Those interested were encouraged to contact the dean directly.

Status: Completed Fall 2007.

Number of teacher interactions: 10 guidance counselors

Number of student interactions: 132 students

- **Appalachian Writing Project, Summer Institute**

Outstanding teachers in Southwest Virginia may apply to the Invitational Summer Writing Institute on the campus of UVA's College at Wise. This month-long institute, led by a faculty member at UVA's College at Wise, offers instruction in the teaching of writing and literacy issues. It also gives teachers the opportunity to grow as writers.

UVA Contribution: UVA's School of Continuing and Professional Studies provides assistance with course registration and offers six graduate credits for completion of this program.

Status: Institute conducted summer 2007. Program will be continued, with enrollment projected to double in summer 2008.

Number of teacher interactions: 9 teachers in Summer Institute

- **Reading First in Virginia**

In 2003, UVA was invited by the Virginia Department of Education to build the professional development component for the state's Reading First grant. The Reading First in Virginia (RFIV) office was established at Curry in that year. It provides Teacher Reading Academies (four-day workshops), follow-up training (through Tier-2/hands-on workshops), conferences, and institutes on selected topics for K-3 teachers and K-12 special educators in the Commonwealth. These events are offered across the state throughout the year. Teachers register for events through the website: www.readingfirst.virginia.edu.

A large number of RFIV schools are located in Southwest Virginia. Of the nearly 10,000

teachers who have been served to date, 1,200 have been from the Southwest region (Bland, Bristol City, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Galax City, Giles, Grayson, Lee, Montgomery, Norton City, Pulaski, Radford, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe).

UVA Contribution: During the course of the grant, the RFIV office created and delivered copyrighted professional development workshops across the Commonwealth, launched a professional website where materials can be accessed by teachers in and out of the state, and videotaped demonstrations of best practices in teaching. Research scientists have conducted studies on selected RFIV schools' performance in reading and the role of the reading coach in instructional improvements, and the pre- and post-literacy knowledge of Special Education teachers who attend professional development training.

Status: The Reading First grant was funded in January 2003 with funding projected to run through December 2009. Professor Mary Abouzeid, Ph.D., is the principal investigator.

Number of teacher interactions: 580 teachers supported (1,200 in greater Southwest area)

- **Office of Mathematics Outreach**

In the fall of 2006, the Office of Mathematics Outreach was created within the School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS) to ensure the long-term viability of mathematics outreach efforts. Graduate courses for in-service teachers are offered in collaboration with the Curry School of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences' Department of Mathematics. Ongoing partnerships with school divisions provide sustained and comprehensive mathematics education programs for in-service teachers throughout the Commonwealth.

UVA Contribution: The Office of Mathematics Outreach developed, administered, and coordinated the following classes in the Southwest Virginia region:

EDIS 882 *Curriculum Advanced Theory (Mathematics)-Leadership III*
Abingdon
Fall-Spring 07-08

MATH 672 *Number Systems for Middle School Teachers*
Abingdon
Spring 2008

Status: EDIS 882 and MATH 672 were completed during the fall 2007 and spring 2008 semesters. Math 675: *Measurement and Geometric Concepts for Middle School Teachers* will be offered in Abingdon, fall 2008

Number of teacher interactions: 26 teachers enrolled in courses

3. **Business Support**

Goal: Cultivate a strong base for Southwest Virginia’s new economy

Metrics: Number of students enrolled in UVA-sponsored engineering-related programs
Number of participants in UVA-sponsored management training
Number of participants in UVA-sponsored technical training

Primary partners: Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority, UVA’s College at Wise, Southwest Higher Education Center, Mountain Empire Community College, Southwest Virginia Community College, Virginia Highlands Community College

Business Support Programs:

- **Management Training**

UVA’s College at Wise established the Southwest Virginia Technology Development Center in Lebanon, VA to support the management development and technical training needs of Northrop Grumman, CGI, and other regional companies. These companies, which employ highly technical workers, want to ensure that there is a steady pipeline of management talent available to keep their operations competitive.

UVA Contribution: UVA’s Leadership Development Center and School for Continuing and Professional Studies are working with the executive director of the Technology Development Center to launch a management training program for regional companies and government entities. This includes leading several focus groups to assess need, creating a template for program roll-out, identifying differentiated training for supervisory, middle management and executive levels, and sponsoring the first workshop session. Curriculum developed by the Leadership Development Center is offered at no cost.

UVA sponsored the introductory management training session, *Meeting the Leadership Challenge*. This 7.5 hour session was led by a UVA adjunct faculty member who has an extensive background in delivering these types of programs.

Status: As the result of multiple intensive work sessions, a model for management training has been established. The team is currently working to hire a program developer, based on site in Lebanon, to help bridge the curriculum offerings and training expertise available in Charlottesville with the needs identified in the Coalfields. The kick-off program, sponsored by UVA, was offered on May 20, 2008, at the Technology Development Center. Survey responses indicated that this program was extremely well received, with 100% of the respondents rating the training “good” or “super.”

Number of participants in UVA-sponsored management training: 14

- **Technical Training**

UVA's College at Wise established the Technology Development Center in Lebanon, VA, to support the management development and technical training needs of Northrop Grumman, CGI, and other regional companies. These companies periodically require specialized training for their employees. Some of the training is part of a general workforce development nature, while other training is required for specific contracts.

UVA Contribution: UVA is prepared to send faculty to the Technology Development Center as technical training needs arise. This is dependent on finding a suitable match between faculty expertise and availability and the specific needs. Community colleges, UVA's College at Wise, or private contractors will also deliver training.

Status: Relationships have been established with appropriate departments to ensure a rapid response to requests, which often have a short turnaround time. All efforts will be made to have classes attended by faculty from UVA's College at Wise so that they are able to offer similar training in the future. This type of capacity building is essential to providing multiple options for training delivery.

Number of participants in UVA-sponsored technical training: n/a (still in planning stage)

- **LEAD Virginia**

LEAD Virginia is a non-profit, non-partisan statewide professional development experience for proven leaders. This seven-month program offers a forum for deeper insight into complex regional and statewide issues, networking, resource exchange, etc.

UVA Contribution: UVA is sponsoring two residents from the Coalfield region for participation in this program. UVA also helped with the recruitment process, encouraging leaders in Southwest Virginia to apply.

Status: Two residents of the Coalfield region are attending LEAD Virginia with partial scholarships from UVA.

Number of participants in UVA-sponsored management training: 2

- **PRODUCED in Virginia (Providing Undergraduate Connections to Engineering Education in Virginia)**

PRODUCED in Virginia is an academic outreach initiative of the UVA School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS). Through this program, students can earn a bachelor's degree in engineering science from the University of Virginia without leaving

their communities. UVA partners with local community colleges to satisfy preliminary course requirements.

UVA Contribution: SEAS is providing the planning and coordination for this project, including curriculum development. The School for Continuing and Professional Studies is providing administrative support. UVA faculty will teach classes during the last two years of the program. Building infrastructure and services, career counseling, mentoring, and equipment will be provided at each site.

Status: SEAS is in the early planning stages, and is working with UVA's College at Wise and the local community colleges to finalize the curriculum. Course offerings for the B.S. degree will likely begin in 2010 or 2011. (Matriculation in an Associate of Science program at one of the community colleges can begin sooner than that, and will take 2-3 years to complete. An Associate of Science degree is a prerequisite for the program). An NSF grant for \$2M was awarded to help support this program in Southside and Southwest Virginia. This three-year grant, beginning July 2008, will fund scholarships for potentially hundreds of students.

Number of students enrolled in UVA-sponsored engineering-related programs:

Southside Virginia: 120 students enrolled in associate's degree science/engineering programs as a result of PRODUCED in Virginia

Southwest Virginia: n/a (program is still in planning stage).

- **Research Center in Abingdon**

A proposal is being developed for the construction of a regional research center, to be located at Southwest Virginia Higher Ed Center (SVHEC) in Abingdon. The facility is intended to host multiple universities and a variety of research activities.

UVA Contribution: UVA provided language for the Tobacco Commission proposal that outlined potential areas of research for the center, based on University strengths and corporate activities in the Coalfield region. UVA helped identify a qualified consultant from the Research Triangle Institute to complete the planning study. UVA's School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) hosted a roundtable discussion with the executive director of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center to highlight potential UVA research areas for collaboration with the research center. SEAS also hosted coal company executives in Charlottesville to identify promising areas of collaborative research.

Status: Research center planning study to be reviewed by Tobacco Commission summer 2008.

NEXT STEPS:

This report is the second in a series of annual reports that will record progress on UVA's economic development action plan for Southwest Virginia.

The focus for the upcoming year (FY09) will be to work with our partners in the Coalfield region to assess current programs and identify specific outcomes and related metrics that will enable UVA to place its resources where they will have the greatest impact. A number of grants are in the review stage and, if funded, could provide significant additional resources for UVA activities in Southwest Virginia. Our intent is to effect transformational change, rather than make incremental progress. We believe our activities to date lay the foundation for this to occur, and we will continue to work with our colleagues across the Commonwealth to improve the health, education, and prosperity of the region.

For more information on any of the initiatives included in this report, please contact:

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APPENDIX A
RELATED ACTIVITIES

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, Abingdon, Virginia

The Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC) was established in 1991 to strengthen the economy of Southwest Virginia through education and training of the current and future workforce. Through a partnership with eight colleges and universities, including the University of Virginia, the SVHEC provides undergraduate and graduate degree programs and professional development courses primarily for adult learners. The SVHEC promotes regional economic development through its conference facility, business support services, and technology applications.

The following UVA courses were offered in FY08:

- M.A. Mathematics. UVA math professor Loren Pitt led this graduate program for secondary teachers. Twenty-eight teachers graduated from this program.
- Virginia Earth Science NCLB Grant. UVA astronomy professor Ed Murphy led five courses in Southwest Virginia, including Physical Geology, Geology of Virginia, Astronomy, Meteorology, and Oceanography. Twelve teachers participated in the Oceanography course, which was offered in the 2007-08 academic year.
- Earth Science – The course, *Environmental Geology for Science Teachers*, was delivered to six teachers in spring 2008.
- Engineering – Two distance learning courses were offered through the Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program. Two students were enrolled in these courses.
- Educator Professional Development – A course in classroom management was offered to 13 teachers.
- Educator Professional Development – A course, *Differentiating Instruction*, which is part of the gifted education endorsement course series, was delivered to 19 teachers.
- A noncredit *Introduction to Computing* course was also delivered to eight participants.

Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service – Southwest Office¹

SOUTHWEST OFFICE

The office continues to be a major influence in Southwest Virginia public affairs. Led by Sim Ewing and Art Mead, the Cooper Center serves as a resource and provides support to a diverse regional community. Sim and Art are supported by Travis Perry and Veronica Martin. Essentially, they provide three types of service in addition to serving as the focal point to the Southwest legislative delegation. The service types are: multi-jurisdictional applied research, individual and group training and development, and community consultation.

Sim Ewing also serves as the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Government Relations for the University of Virginia's College at Wise.

I. Applied Research

Economic Transformation through Technology. The Office worked with Russell County and the Commonwealth of Virginia on issues to ensure that Northrop Grumman and CGI are successful in their transition to the region. Additionally, this program has facilitated work to enhance the operations of other industry leaders such as Alcoa.

Clean Coal Technology Power Plant. The Center continues to work with Wise County on issues of importance surrounding the location of a Clean Coal Technology Power Plant in Wise County. At the close of the planning period, the State Air Board approved the final permit which now allows the construction to go forward.

Nanotechnology Development. Continued working with the Wise County Industrial Development Authority on locating a company which will use nanotechnology to enhance utilization of coal as a clean fuel.

Southwest Virginia Health Facilities Authority. Working with the Health Facilities Authority, which was established through legislation by the Southwest Virginia Delegation, to improve the overall level of health care in the region. The Authority, which has bonding powers and the power of eminent domain, is a key facilitator working in conjunction with the Wise County Industrial Development Authority to locate the clinic of the VCU School of Dentistry. There is also interest by the UVA Health Science Center to establish a specialty clinic to assist in serving the needs of the region.

School of Dentistry. Facilitated meetings with the regional medical community and economic developers in order to examine the potential for establishing a School of Dentistry in the region. This led to language in the Appropriations Act requiring SCHEV to provide an official study and recommendation to the General Assembly prior to the

¹ Report provided by Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service – Southwest Office. These activities are initiated by the Center's Southwest Office, and support the overall economic development goal in the Coalfield Region.

2008 Session. From the session, further language was developed which allowed for the development of a health zone to enhance specialty clinics that the office is working with. Worked with all the parties to draft language for inclusion in the Bond Bill for construction of the dental clinic, which was passed.

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center Research Center. Continued to work as part of a group consisting of legislative leaders, economic development officials, and higher education on the development of a research component to the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center.

Regional Arts Center. Worked with the William King Regional Arts Center to ensure funding stability with the Commonwealth. Assisted in the coordination of activities between the Arts Center, SWPEC, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. This is an on-going program called Van Gogh. While we were able to maintain funding for Van Gogh, the remaining appropriation from the Commonwealth for William King was eliminated.

Local Government Managers. Met monthly with local government managers/administrators from Wise, Lee, and Scott Counties and the City of Norton.

Secretaries Gottschalk and Bryant. Hosted meetings for each of the Secretaries showcasing items of interest for their secretariats in Southwest Virginia.

Local Inquiry Support. Provided consultation and advice to various managers, administrators, and staff members on issues and questions facing their jurisdiction.

II. Memberships

Virginia Coalfield Water Development Fund. This fund now has over \$17M in funds to distribute to water projects to bring potable water to the Coalfield region of Virginia. This is a Federal EPA and Virginia Department of Health demonstration project. Specific work included aid in compliance with legislative and technical operation issues. Currently serve as Chair of the Finance Committee and member of the Executive Committee

Southwest Virginia Public Education Consortium. Assisted the SWPEC on issues of educational significance to the region with the legislative delegation. Provided guidance to the Board on issues affecting their financial and programmatic operations.

Legislative Delegation. Worked with the Southwest Virginia Legislative Members specifically on issues related to economic development, coal severance taxation, education, and local government operation.

Tobacco Commission. Worked as a liaison between the region's legislators and economic development teams and the Tobacco Indemnification Board. Provided guidance on types of programs that may have long-term impact on the region from funds expended through the Commission.

III. Professional Support for Jurisdictions

Southwest Virginia Newly Elected Board of Supervisors Program. Conducted an introductory program on issues affecting the seven coalfield counties and the fundamental duties of members of the Board of Supervisors for the newly elected and existing Boards of Supervisors.

Wise County, Wise County IDA & City of Norton. Provided mediation on development of an area of municipal sewerage coverage to aid in the economic enhancement of a retail corridor. This is leading toward consideration of a boundary adjustment which would include revenue sharing agreements for the area between the Town of Wise, City of Norton, and Wise County, along with discussions on the economical transmission of sewerage.

Southside – Southwest Collaboration. At the request of Ben Davenport, facilitated a meeting with a Danville Foundation to highlight successful regional cooperative efforts in Southwest Virginia and the methodology behind bringing the diverse groups together.

Facilitation. Performed mediation work with councils of Gate City, Altavista, Big Stone Gap, Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce, and Alleghany County on issues affecting the operation of local government. Issues ranged from utility operations, FOIA, and budgeting to relationship development.

Towns of Wise and Big Stone Gap, and City of Norton. Worked on their behalf with the Virginia Retirement System and members of the Virginia General Assembly to provide supplemental retirement benefits to long tenured local government managers. The bill did not pass the General Assembly.

Town of Coeburn. Led discussions with the town council and planning commission to facilitate long term strategic planning.

School Appropriations. Prepared synopsis of Senate and House budget amendments before the General Assembly affecting school appropriations and capital projects in Southwest Virginia.

Town of Appalachia. Assisted with preparation of FY08 budget including personnel addendum, debt schedule, and financial report form for internal use by board.

VLGMA. Served as facilitator of the group of “non-managers” within the Virginia Local Government Management Association.

Town of Saint Charles. Provided consultation to citizens group living in the Saint Charles, VA area regarding their concerns about the propriety of the Town of Saint Charles governmental deliberations.

Glade Springs. Citizen group discussion focused on Freedom of Information and zoning issues of fundamental local governance in Virginia.

Gate City. Provided assistance to the town with official response to zoning challenges.

LEAD VIRGINIA. Served as moderator and travel escort during the Southwest Virginia segment of program. Introduction of speakers, narrative during transit, and assistance to bus driver were provided for the participants during their two-day visit.

Town of Coeburn, LENOWISCO, Wise County. Facilitation of an exploratory discussion focusing on housing and ways to improve it in Coeburn.

Virginia Mayor's Institute. Provided leadership for the Virginia Mayor's Institute and session leader.

Virginia County Board Chairman's Institute. Provided leadership for the Virginia Mayor's Institute and session leader.

Buchanan County. Provided data and support to the Buchanan County effort to relocate the Grundy Airport. This is a subproject of the Coalfields Expressway and Buchanan Technology Park project.

Giles County Board of Supervisors. Efficiency study completed in 2005 at request of county administrator addressing Giles County governmental operations.

Citizens Planning Education Assoc. of VA (CPEAV). Serve as immediate past-president of the statewide organization of local planning commission officials.

- Presented new 10 region division of Virginia for board representation, detailing the jurisdictions and regions by square miles. The Executive Board gave formal approval at its March 28, 2008 meeting. This action resulted in reducing the number of CPEAV regions from 21 to 10.
- Presentation on the Virginia FOIA & Virginia Conflict of Interest Act as one of CPEAV annual conference concurrent sessions.

IV. Presentations:

Bluefield AM Radio Talk Show. Participated in ongoing one-hour morning interviews on a variety of topics such as:

- The use of land use regulation, such as mixed use development, in Virginia to influence development in coordination with planned transportation infrastructure improvements.
- The delivery of a region's message: balancing presentations to visitors, striking a balance between the reinforcement of a stereotype, and white washing. Example: adult educational attainment.
- The Council/Manager form of government in local jurisdictions and its origin.

- The increasing role of Virginia in international trade and its tie to the federal government/NS Railroad “Heartland” project.
- The impact of VCU on Richmond with the construction of “mixed use” dormitories in the downtown district and its contribution to workforce development. Also the success of “community policing” in Richmond.
- The new urbanism. What it is and how it is being integrated into both local and state land use regulations within the growth areas of Virginia.
- The impact of federal “archeological preservation” requirements on a project, like the Bluestone Technology Park in Tazewell County, when Native American artifacts are found.
- Governor Kaine’s funding proposals to supplement the resources of Virginia’s Community Services Boards in tracking and managing the treatment of patients like the April 2007 shooter at VA Tech.
- Parallel between proposed economic development program for southern West Virginia and VCEA in Southwest Virginia. The new Dominion Resources power plant to be built in Wise County and its “green features.” Also, a review of the formula for distributing the local portion of state sales taxes back to local jurisdictions.
- Economic success stories from Roanoke/New River Valley area.

City of Norton/Wise County Chamber of Commerce. Presentation to the 2008 Leadership Class on “The financial and demographic profile of the City of Norton and Wise County relative to the balance of VA.”

Grayson County. Presentation on “Public Official Conduct.”

Forward Dickenson County Leadership Development Program. Presentation on VA demographics and Southwest VA to participants in the “Forward Dickenson County” leadership program. The class was composed of high school students and local business leaders.

Sorensen Institute. Presentation on: The Demographics of Southwest Virginia (outward migration).

Tazewell Soil & Water Conservation District. “Tour Du Parc” for county middle school children at Graham Recreation Park. Served as one of 13 learning station speakers. The topic was a history of the park’s development and the impact that an individual can have on community projects.

Grayson County Planning Commission. Discussion leader at a meeting for the Grayson County Planning Commission. Reviewed some basic planning tools including the use of clustering.