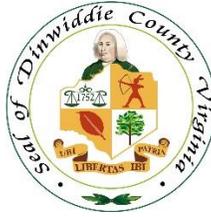


County of Dinwiddie

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 1, 2017

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County Receives Achievement Award for Hiring Program

DINWIDDIE, VA – The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) has announced its 2017 Achievement Award Winners. Dinwiddie County received an award for its Public Safety “Ready for Hire” program. VACo received 79 submissions and selected 17 to receive awards.

The “Ready for Hire” program, developed through collaboration between Public Safety and Human Resources, is an innovative response to the high turnover among the County’s Communications Officers. The program establishes a pool of qualified applicants, who have already been screened, tested and have undergone background checks. When a vacancy occurs in the public safety communications office, it is from this pool that candidates are selected and offered employment.

Crystal Spain, Director of Human Resources explains how this program is an all-around win for the County “The program has shaved months off of the lag time between vacancy and hiring, and has effected significant savings in overtime that was being paid to staff covering vacancies.”

In addition to allowing for a fully-staffed communications center, Dennis Hale, Chief of Fire & EMS pointed out, “The program also reduces the amount of stress on existing communications officers who have been carrying the workload of vacant positions.”

Dr. Sheryl Bailey, Senior Vice President at Springsted Incorporated, served on VACo’s panel of judges. Regarding her experience she stated “I come away very impressed.” Dr. Bailey continued “The future is certainly bright if this is an indication of the resourcefulness and ingenuity of county staff and leadership.”

This is Dinwiddie County’s third VACo Achievement Award, having won the award in 2015 for the County’s Youth Workforce Development Initiative, and in 2012 for the County’s Sports Complex.

For additional information on the VACo Achievement Award, visit: www.Dinwiddieva.us.

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