



PRESS RELEASE

COUNTY CUTS THE RIBBON AND OPENS THE FRANKLIN CENTER FOR ADVANCED LEARNING & ENTERPRISE

For Immediate Release

August 13, 2007 – 1:30 p.m.

For Additional Information:

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Rocky Mount, Virginia --- The [County of Franklin](#), Virginia this afternoon welcomed over two hundred invited guests, including elected local, state and federal officials who participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony of [The Franklin Center for Advanced Learning & Enterprise](#), the County's new workforce training and education facility.

The [Franklin Center for Advanced Learning & Enterprise](#) represents an unprecedented collaboration of partnerships for promoting economic development opportunities in developing a skilled and adaptable workforce supporting activities in business retention, attraction and entrepreneurial development. Staffed by the Franklin County Workforce Development Consortium, the new center offers a broad range of life-long learning programs including adult education, professional career certifications, and college degrees.

Strategically positioned on a public campus between the Franklin County Library and Mary Elizabeth Park and located in the center of Downtown Rocky Mount's Business District along Claiborne Avenue, the new, \$5.5 million [Franklin Center](#) consists of two primary floors of technologically advanced training and instructional space. The 31,000 sq. ft. facility boasts next generation computer and media classrooms, life science laboratories, distance learning modules, faculty / staff offices, and a career resources center.

Programs and courses offered at [The Franklin Center](#) are managed by the Franklin County Workforce Development Consortium—a partnership offering employment, training and educational services to employers and citizens of Franklin County. Created in 1999, the Consortium consists of thirteen partners representing local governments, the public school system, colleges, and community-based agencies committed to making the region stronger and more competitive in a global marketplace. Kathy Hodges, Director of the Franklin County Workforce Development Consortium states “the success of our workforce program is evident in that the previous facility well surpassed its maximum capacity due to increased class enrollments and utilization of services. The Consortium’s new home at [The Franklin Center](#) more than triples the Consortium’s former space, thereby allowing our educational partners to offer new programs, certificates and degrees.”

Today’s ribbon cutting comes this summer as German manufacturer [McAirlaid’s](#) breaks ground on its first North American facility and corporate headquarters in Franklin County. Company officials stated the County’s commitment to education and job training programs were key factors in their decision to locate here. “As Franklin County continues to position itself within the global economy, the new [Franklin Center for Advanced Learning & Enterprise](#) will enhance both new and existing businesses in our region, while expanding life-long learning opportunities for all of our citizens” adds Wayne Angell, Chairman of the Franklin County Board of Supervisors.

The construction and equipping of the new, technologically advanced [Franklin Center](#) is funded in partnership by the County of Franklin, the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, the United States Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration, the Carilion Foundation, the United States Department of Agriculture’s Virginia Rural Development Program, education partners, business and industry resources.

For more information and project details, please visit: <http://www.thefranklincenter.org>

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