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Henry County Board of Supervisors Passes Resolution Supporting Establishment of New College

MARTINSVILLE, September 27 – The Henry County Board of Supervisors today unanimously passed a resolution supporting the Harvest Foundation’s challenge to the Commonwealth of Virginia and endorsing the innovative model of higher education developed by Dr. Ronald E. Carrier, President of the New College.

In separate meetings with members of the Board of Supervisors over the past two weeks, Dr. Carrier and former Virginia Governor Gerald L. Baliles presented plans for a baccalaureate-level educational program designed specifically for the students of rural Martinsville, Henry County, and Southside Virginia.

“Embracing change and innovation is never easy, but I am thrilled to see that the citizens, business leaders, and elected officials of this region support the mission of the New College. We look forward to working with Patrick Henry Community College to develop a local workforce that is exceptionally prepared for the challenges of the 21st century,” said Dr. Carrier.

In its attempt to accommodate the distinctive needs of students of Southside, Virginia, the new college concept will offer two primary avenues of access: (1) for residential students seeking a rigorous, full-time baccalaureate degree and (2) for students of all ages who are seeking a degree, but cannot commit to a strictly-defined schedule.

Residential students pursuing a degree will complete their baccalaureate degree on an accelerated timetable, likely attending classes from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., year-round. Students who do not have the flexibility to attend classes all day, year-round, will be able to attend “weekend colleges” in the area and surrounding counties, which will provide supplementary classroom instruction through the internet.

Harvest Foundation Executive Director Harry Cerino expressed gratitude for the recent groundswell of local support, including similar gestures by the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Rocky Mount, “I would like to applaud the Board of Supervisors for their tremendous vision and leadership in endorsing Dr. Carrier’s ideas; these resolutions will further entice the Commonwealth to accept the Harvest Challenge.”

In January, the Harvest Foundation presented the state with a \$50 million challenge grant to help bring a college or university to the area.

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