



NEWS RELEASE | ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Regional entities receive Business Facilities Economic Development Organization Award

The Danville Office of Economic Development & Tourism (DOEDT), in partnership with the Institute for Advanced Learning & Research (IALR), Pittsylvania County Economic Development, and the Southern Virginia Regional Alliance (SVRA), has received the Business Facilities 2025 EDO (Economic Development Organization) Award in the mid-size population category (100k-150k). This recognition highlights the collaborative work that has taken place to rebuild the Southern Virginia economy, showcasing the success of programs created to grow and strengthen the workforce pipeline.

These key organizations across Southern Virginia created a strategic initiative designed to increase employment opportunities with better wages and chances for growth, from a child's early development to academic opportunities to workforce training.

The EDO Awards shine a spotlight on programs and initiatives that organizations are implementing with a focus on attracting and retaining companies in their communities.

Corrie Bobe, DOEDT Director, shares her excitement, "Receiving the Business Facilities 2025 EDO Award is a proud moment for our organization and is a clear validation of the collaborative efforts that have gone into rebuilding and strengthening our regional economy. It helps demonstrate our region's dedication to creating sustainable pathways for workforce development—connecting educational opportunities with the skills needed for long-term career success. This recognition showcases the powerful impact of regional partnerships and ongoing investments in workforce development that are positioning Southern Virginia as a destination for both talent and business."

"Pittsylvania County is proud to be part of the Southern Virginia team that has earned recognition from Business Facilities magazine through its prestigious EDO Awards program," said Matt Rowe, Pittsylvania County Economic Development Director. "This award is another validation of the importance for communities to collaborate and work together to address the diverse and

challenging needs of business and industry. Pittsylvania County, along with its recognized partners, has invested heavily in its skilled trades workforce programs and its shovel ready sites which has resulted in nationally recognized economic activity and positive momentum. Pittsylvania County looks forward to the next chapter of this collaboration and partnership which will undoubtedly continue to improve the lives of Southern Virginia residents and provide great opportunities for future generations.”

"It's an honor to be recognized by Business Facilities, but the true reward is seeing companies grow thanks to the region's strong, innovative workforce pipeline," said Linda Green, SVRA Executive Director. "From GO TEC's early introduction of technical skills in middle school, to dual-enrollment programs, SkillsUSA achievements, and advanced college training, Southern Virginia is producing job-ready talent. Our region now trains for the U.S. Navy and Department of Defense around the clock on three shifts with the customized Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing. Coupled with regional investment in childcare and early education, and shared best practices across Virginia and beyond, we're building a model that prepares workers and supports families."

"This award reflects the strong collaboration across Southern Virginia to align education and training with industry needs and economic development goals," said Telly Tucker, President of the IALR. "We're collaboratively building a skilled talent pipeline that supports business growth and creates lasting opportunity for our communities."

Business Facilities is a leading full-service media brand specializing in the site selection marketplace and publishes a bi-monthly magazine, e-mail newsletters, and a news portal.

To learn more about workforce development in the Southern Virginia region, visit www.discoverdanville.com.

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About the Office of Economic Development and Tourism

The Danville Office of Economic Development & Tourism recruits and retains businesses for the Danville area. The office provides information on available sites and buildings, incentives and other financial resources and offers a website designed for the business community: www.discoverdanville.com.