



Smyth County Economic Development Authority  
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## Press Release

### *SMYTH COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY INVESTS IN SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL TRAINING FACILITY TO BRING PROGRAMS TO SMYTH COUNTY*

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SMYTH COUNTY, VA – Today, the Smyth County Economic Development Authority announced an investment into the County’s educational programs. With the purchase of the former Worldwide Ford facility in Marion, Virginia, the Economic Development Authority has partnered with Wytheville Community College to bring a variety of educational programming to Smyth County.

“One of the most important strategic priorities of the Smyth County EDA is the support of workforce development programs for citizens of the county,” **said EDA Chairman John McLean, Jr.** “The EDA is very pleased that Wytheville Community College will materially expand its offerings in the county through use of the building for hands on skilled training and development. We very much appreciate the financial support of the Board of Supervisors and the Bank of Marion which enabled the purchase. We look forward to a long and productive partnership with WCC.”

Recognizing the need for the technical trade educational programs, and workforce development, the Smyth County Board of Supervisors played an integral role, offering a financial incentive of \$250,000 toward the project.

“The Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of workforce development and skilled technical trade in our community and region,” **said Chairman, Charlie Atkins.** “We are proud to support the EDA, this partnership with Wytheville Community College, and look forward to the opportunities it will bring.”

Wytheville Community College continues to be a leader in technical trade and advanced manufacturing education for our communities and citizens. With this partnership, WCC will provide programs that specialize in skilled trade and career preparation for in-demand sectors within our region and offer the industries within our community additional qualified workforce.

“WCC is incredibly excited to partner with the Smyth County EDA for this opportunity to expand offerings to the citizens in this part of our service region,” **said President Dean Sprinkle.** “This facility will provide space for occupational, skilled trades and workforce programs, and will be a great complement to the lecture classroom space of WCC at the Henderson.

We are appreciative of Smyth County EDA working with the college to provide additional opportunities to the citizens of the county and the region. We anticipate initial offerings available beginning in January.”