



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

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VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING APPRENTICES FOR 2005

RICHMOND – The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry announced that the Virginia Apprenticeship Council has recognized four apprentices as Virginia's Outstanding Apprentices for 2005. The Council, in association with the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, sponsors the awards program, which honors outstanding apprentices each year who have completed their training programs and are nominated by their sponsoring organizations. Nominated apprentices are judged in many areas, including craftsmanship, accuracy, cooperation, leadership, decision-making, and consideration for their companies and co-workers.

Barry W. Baker, Chairman of the Virginia Apprenticeship Council, accompanied by Vice Chairman Steven Staples, Secretary of Commerce and Trade Michael Schewel, and Commissioner of Labor and Industry C. Ray Davenport, presented the Outstanding Apprentice Awards at a ceremony (see meeting information below) on December 8, 2005 to the following persons:

Sharon Paulette Beasley, a metal inspector apprentice employed by Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth;

Hugo Juarez, a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) apprentice employed by Dwyer Plumbing Corporation, Alexandria;

Michael D. Norton, an electrician apprentice employed by G. J. Hopkins, Roanoke; and

Athanasios (Tom) Venetsanos, a land surveyor apprentice employed by Sam Whitson Land Surveying, Fairfax, Virginia.

“I commend these outstanding apprentices for their terrific work,” stated Secretary Schewel. “Their skill, their hard work and their dedication have produced benefits for the employees, their employers, and the Commonwealth.”

Apprenticeship Council Chairman Baker said, “The Virginia Apprenticeship Council is deeply committed to the career and skill development opportunities available through registered apprenticeship. Our 2005 outstanding apprentices exemplify the best of what apprenticeship has to offer.”

“I congratulate the apprentices and their employers on their outstanding efforts and for recognizing the value of registered apprenticeship,” stated Commissioner Davenport. “Apprenticeship is a proven, efficient workforce development program that helps ensure a highly skilled, quality, healthy and safe workforce.”

The Virginia Voluntary Apprenticeship Program was established in 1938. Registered apprenticeship training is used in more than 300 occupations in Virginia. There are currently over 12,000 registered apprentices employed by more than 2,000 employers throughout the Commonwealth. Additional information on registered apprenticeship can be obtained by visiting the Department of Labor and Industry’s Web site at www.doli.virginia.gov.

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Meeting Information:

Open to Public and Press

December 8, 2005

10:00 a.m.

**Confederate Hills Recreation Building, 302 Lee Avenue, Highland Springs, VA
(Eastern Henrico County)**