



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

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VIRGINIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING APPRENTICES FOR 2012

RICHMOND – The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry announced that the Virginia Apprenticeship Council has recognized four apprentices as Virginia’s Outstanding Apprentices for 2012. 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, creativity, decision-making, and consideration for their companies and co-workers.

Mr. Darold S. Kemp, Chairman of the Virginia Apprenticeship Council, accompanied by Vice Chairman Dudley Harris and Virginia Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Courtney Malveaux, presented the Outstanding Apprentice Awards at a ceremony on November 15, 2012 to the following persons:

LaTonya Pope from Norfolk Naval Shipyard
Gregory Hoefflin from Huntington Ingalls Industries – Newport News Shipyard
Justin Duke from D.E. Kirby Inc.
Nabil Awwad from Mt. Vernon Ladies Association of the Union

Apprenticeship Council Chairman Kemp said, “The Virginia Apprenticeship Council is dedicated to fostering the job and skill development opportunities available through

apprenticeship. Our 2012 outstanding apprentices represent the best of what apprenticeship has to offer.”

The Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Jim Cheng provided introductory remarks and assisted with the presentation of awards. He thanked the Council, on behalf of himself and the Governor, for its role in job creation. He also noted that keeping the workforce motivated through Registered Apprenticeship is commendable and he thanked all the sponsors and apprentices who make this a successful program.

Secretary Cheng spoke of his efforts to promote the growth of Virginia's business community and attract new investment into Virginia's economy. He points to the skilled workforce and the programs we have to keep that workforce ready for jobs in the 21st century.

The Virginia Voluntary Apprenticeship Program was established in 1938. Apprenticeship training is used in more than 400 occupations in Virginia. There are approximately 13,000 registered apprentices employed by more than 2,500 employers throughout the Commonwealth. Additional information on apprenticeship can be obtained by visiting the Department of Labor and Industry's Web site at www.doli.virginia.gov.

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