



sponsored by the Harvest Foundation



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Press Release:

Teaser: Harvest Foundation awards \$3.1 million to PHCC

Patrick Henry Community College (PHCC) will receive a three-year grant totaling \$3.1 million from the Harvest Foundation to strengthen Martinsville and Henry County's workforce and develop future career pipelines.

The grant, Harvest SEED (Student Excellence in Education), will make the first two years of college at PHCC free of charge for all residents of Martinsville-Henry County who graduate during the 2017-2018 academic year. Funding will be last-dollar in for student tuition throughout the three-year pilot.

The Harvest SEED program will benefit from PHCC's existing infrastructure and experience to expand the college's programming to incorporate future workforce development, and it will develop skilled workers to fill current vacancies throughout the workforce.

"Patrick Henry Community College fills a vital role in our community of training and preparing individuals in Martinsville and Henry County to enter the workforce or move onto four-year universities," said DeWitt House, senior program officer at Harvest Foundation. "Harvest SEED will enable students to identify and move forward on a career pathway as early as possible, focusing on degree and career-ready certifications and credentials."

An estimated 250 students will have the opportunity to take advantage of this program in its first year, serving 2018 high school, homeschool and GED graduates. PHCC will track progress of students in the program, noting the number of credentials and certifications earned, seeing how many students transfer to four-year institutions, and keeping track of students entering the workforce employed in a living wage job.

"Harvest SEED is ground breaking," said Dr. Angeline Godwin, president of PHCC. "By investing in our community's education, Harvest is cultivating the lives and futures of these high school students. By investing in today's students, they are investing in tomorrow's workforce. The lasting impact this will have on the lives of each student and on Martinsville and Henry County is immeasurable. When these high school graduates join the workforce as college graduates, our whole community will feel the impact."

House added, "Growing and supporting our area's workforce is a top priority for Harvest, and we're proud to partner with PHCC and provide resources that will move our community forward."

In addition to free tuition for area high school, homeschool, and GED graduates, PHCC's multifaceted program will increase its number of coaches who work one-on-one with students at-risk of not completing their credential to increase retention and graduation rates.

For more information, please visit www.patrickhenry.edu/harvest-seed

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About the Organizations:

About The Harvest Foundation:

The Harvest Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 2002 by the sale of Memorial Hospital. The foundation seeks to invest in community initiatives that support economic development within Martinsville and Henry County. To improve the community's health, educational opportunity and quality of life, Harvest will work to support organizations and projects that build and maintain economic prosperity. To date, the foundation has put more than \$110 million in grant dollars back into the community and has an annual grants budget of roughly \$10 million. To find out more about Harvest, visit www.theharvestfoundation.org.

About Patrick Henry Community College:

Patrick Henry Community College, a comprehensive two-year institution, services Martinsville city as well as Patrick and Henry counties. PHCC is a leader among community colleges in areas such as athletics, technology, and unique program offerings. By providing innovative curricula such as motorsports, entrepreneurship, and mechatronics. PHCC changes lives and enriches the community.

To find out more about PHCC, please visit www.patrickhenry.edu.

Social Media:

Hashtag: #HarvestSEED

Twitter Handles: @PatrickHenryCC and @Harvest_MHC

Facebook Names: Patrick Henry Community College and Harvest Foundation

Harvest SEED Student Eligibility Criteria

For Harvest SEED eligibility, students must meet the following deadlines and requirements:

- Must be a spring 2018 graduate and must apply to and enroll in PHCC in the fall semester following graduation from high school or completion of the GED (high-school age population only) or homeschool program.
- Must have a minimum high school cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.5
- Must be a resident of Martinsville or Henry County and have in-state residency status at the time of the award.
- Must complete the Harvest SEED application by the advertised deadline.
- Must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) each year.
- Must complete eight (8) hours of community service prior to July 31 (for each year of participation).

Once in the program, students must meet the following requirements:

- Must maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average while enrolled at PHCC.
- Must complete a total of eight (8) community service hours each year (four in the fall and four in the spring semester) in order to receive the Harvest SEED award. These hours must be completed in advance of the award.
- Must enroll in a career studies certificate, certificate, or associate degree program of study.
- Must enroll in a minimum of fifteen (15) credit hours per semester.
- Must attend mandatory meetings with the Harvest SEED Coach in order to remain eligible for the program.
- Students may take up to two and half years to finish their program of study while receiving SEED funds as some PHCC programs are greater than 60 hours.

Student Process and Checklist

Step 1-Completion of Patrick Henry Community College Application:

For Students Who Are Not Dually Enrolled:

Students should complete the Patrick Henry Community College admissions application and receive a student ID, login, password, and advisor information. Once the application process is completed, students should go to www.patrickhenry.edu/seed to complete the SEED entry form.

Students Who Are Dually Enrolled or Have a PHCC ID:

Go to www.patrickhenry.edu/seed to complete the SEED entry form.

Step 2-Complete the Harvest SEED entry form online:

Upon completion of the entry form, students will receive a Harvest SEED acceptance letter and enrollment information, indicating eligibility criteria and terms that must be met for the program.

Step 3-Students will complete FAFSA

FAFSA completion assistance will be available to all students. FAFSA completion can be completed at a student's high school on designated evenings or by scheduling an appointment with Patricia Alderson at Patrick Henry Community College. Students may contact her at 276.656.5491 to schedule an appointment. Please leave a message so that she can return the call. Students should anticipate spending one hour to complete the FAFSA application. Please note that students who are under 24 years of age will need to use parents' information to complete the FAFSA. A list of pertinent documents will be provided.

Step 4-Students should submit their final high school transcripts to the PHCC Admissions Office or complete the Virginia Placement Test (VPT) if necessary

Step 5-Students will need to complete eight (8) community service hours prior to July 31. A list of local businesses or non-profit organizations that can provide community service opportunities will be provided. Students must also complete eight (8) community service hours each year they are enrolled in the SEED program in order to receive continued funding.

Step 6-Advising and Registration

Students should see their advisor or Career Coach for advising and placement in courses.

Step 7-Orientation

Orientation (dates TBA) will serve in part to confirm that all eligibility and requirements have been met prior to Fall 2018 entry