



BEDFORD BUSINESS FIRST

News from Bedford County Office of Economic Development

June 2019

The past two months have been full of business appreciation, workforce development opportunities, and broadband expansion announcements, to name a few.

If you have plans for an expansion or want to learn about grant opportunities to help you reach your workforce goals, please contact our office to set up a meeting to discuss your needs.

About our office

The Office of Economic Development is responsible for planning, developing, and directing business and economic development programs and services in Bedford County, Virginia.



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Pam Bailey
Marketing & Business
Development

Broadband Towers Project Breaks Ground



County officials, in partnership with Blue Ridge Towers/Brisnet, broke ground on the first of 10 new communication towers and 21 miles of fiber optic cable on June 19, 2019 at Big Island Elementary School. The towers and fiber are being constructed over the next six months to bring "last mile" broadband to the county's rural, unserved areas. [Read the entire press release here.](#)

Like what you see here?

We post regularly to keep you up to date on projects taking place in the community, continuing education opportunities, and more!



EMPLOYMENT NUMBERS



38,368

LABOR FORCE



37,420

EMPLOYED



77,807

POPULATION IN 2017



\$36,972

MEAN AVERAGE WAGE



2.5%

UNEMPLOYMENT



483

ADVERTISED JOB OPENINGS

Sources: US Census Bureau, April 2019
Virginia Labor Market Report, May 2019

The unemployment numbers in Bedford County continue to remain below the national average. There are approximately 27 active job candidates available per current job opening* in the County.

In 2017, the population of Bedford County was 77,807. and according to the UVA Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, the population is projected to increase to 86,594 by 2030. That's an expected 11.3% increase from 2017.

* Virginia Employment Commission May 2019

Business Appreciation Month Celebration at Beale's



Representatives from Smyth and Bison Printing enjoying the evening at Beale's.

Thank you to all who came out to enjoy the tacos and beverages at our annual business appreciation event at Beale's. We had 60 people attend the May 16 event which was sponsored by the Bedford County Economic Development Authority.

See the official Business Appreciation Month proclamation [here](#).

See photos from the event on [Flickr](#), courtesy of Brigitte Lockett.



Career & Technical Education Students get hired

Twenty Bedford County high school Seniors who completed their Career & Technical Training programs at Bedford Science & Technology Center had their official signing day with local companies on May 20. These students learned the skills of the trade in Automotive Technology, Electricity, Building Management, Cosmetology, and Agriculture.

Each student is now gainfully employed in the discipline learned at BSTC and can start his or her career right away. Please tell your friends and family about the Trade programs at BSTC.

In the News

- [Bedford County breaks ground on first of 10 new communication towers](#)
- [Bedford County awarded \\$670,500 Tobacco Commission grant for Broadband](#)
- [Career Expo offers hands-on advice to thousands of Lynchburg-area students](#)

Workforce Training Grants Available

Did you know that grants are available to train new and incumbent workers?

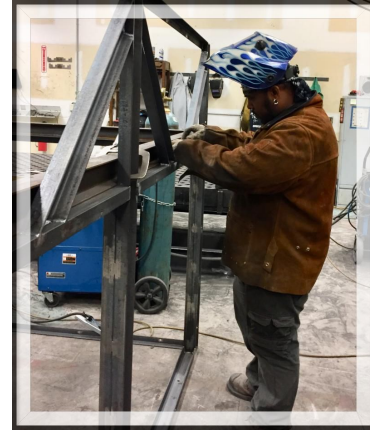
The **Virginia Jobs Investment Program (VJIP)**, under the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), provides services and funding to companies creating new jobs or experiencing technological change to reduce the human resource development costs for new companies, expanding companies, and companies retraining their employees.

Funding for each net new full-time job created or full-time employee retrained is based on a customized budget determined by an assessment of the company's recruiting and training activities. Funding is reimbursable 90 days after the trainee is hired (for new jobs programs) or after the retraining activity has occurred (for retraining programs).

In addition to direct funding to offset a company's recruitment and training costs, VEDP offers human resource consultative support at no charge.

Incumbent worker training programs

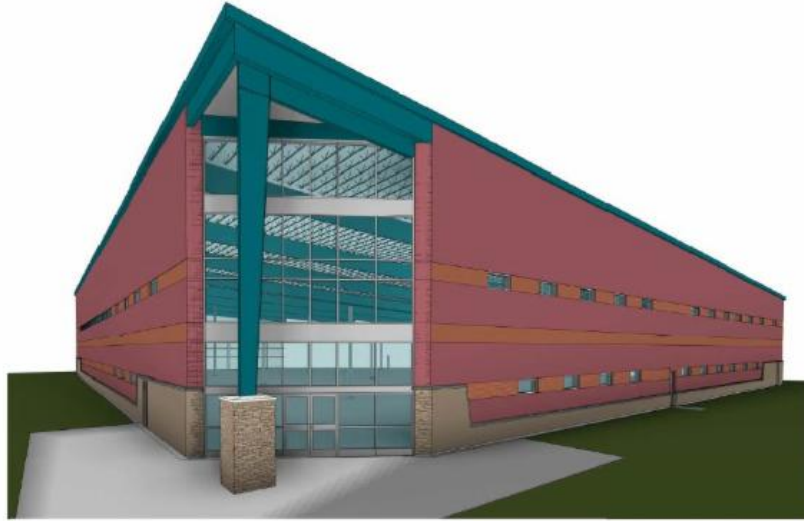
provide funding assistance to businesses to upgrade the skills of their current employees, thereby enhancing their expertise and making their business more competitive and profitable.



The program reimburses employers for the cost of training, such as tuition or instructional costs for courses, classes for certification exams, online training, textbooks/manuals, and certification/licensing fees.

Expanding? Need to relocate?

We have pad-ready sites and a NEW shell building under construction.



BEDFORD COUNTY
EDA SHELL BUILDING
04/10/19



Our premier **New London Business and Technology Center** park in Forest will feature a 40,000 sf shell building (expandable to 80,000 sf) that is under construction on Lot 7. The Center has pad-ready and cleared lots for sale ranging in size from 4 acres to 15+ acres.

The **Bedford Center for Business** has land ready for development including a graded lot, and it lies within the Town's Enterprise Zone and Virginia's Opportunity Zone.

In **Montvale Center for Commerce**, the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance is applying for a grant that will move us one step closer to a pad-ready site.

Call the Office of Economic Development to learn how we can help your business grow in Bedford County. 540-587-5670 | BedfordEconomicDevelopment.com

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