

NEWS ADVISORY

J. Sargeant Reynolds
Community College



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carolyn Conlon

Phone: (804) 523-5233

E-Mail: cconlon@reynolds.edu

JSRCC to receive \$400,600 grant from U.S. Department of Education; focus on reaching displaced workers through distance learning

RICHMOND, Va. (October 14, 2009) – J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is one of two colleges selected in Virginia by the United States Department of Education’s Fund for Improvement of Post-Secondary Education (FIPSE) to receive a three-year grant totaling \$400,602. These funds will improve the College’s online programs and teaching and learning methods, known as distance learning, and specifically target displaced workers and adult learners who seek education to recareer. Distance learning increases access to higher education by offering college courses and training online. The FIPSE grant provides Reynolds with the resources to better prepare students for the online learning environment and train faculty in the best practices for online teaching.

“Distance learning is vital for Reynolds to continue to serve a growing population,” said JSRCC President Gary L. Rhodes. “Online classes offer much needed flexibility among our diverse students, particularly among displaced workers who are returning to school for more education and training to prepare for a new career.”

The Department of Education recently announced the award of \$11.25 million in grants for 29 three-year projects nationwide to benefit working adults and displaced workers pursuing degrees or credentials in community colleges. First and second-year funding for the distance learning initiative at JSRCC totals \$236,049; third-year funding is contingent upon available federal funding and is \$164,553 – for a total project funding amount of \$400,602.

JSRCC is currently implementing an innovative strategy to address the dual needs of both distance learners and educators. The plan calls to improve student retention and performance in distance education courses and, ultimately, creates a pathway to jobs.

Serving over 19,500 students annually, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is the youngest and third largest of 23 community colleges in Virginia. The College operates three campuses serving residents in the City of Richmond and the counties of Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan and Louisa.

###