

### ADULT LEARNING CENTER HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

According to the 2000 US Census, over 5,000 residents in the City of Charlottesville do not have a high school diploma, and almost 5,000 speak a language other than English at home. The Adult Learning Center (ALC), a department within Charlottesville City Schools, is trying to do something about these the statistics by providing area adults with the educational opportunities needed to be successful workers, parents, and community members.

On August 27th, the Center opened its doors to the community in an effort to increase awareness about the facility's many educational opportunities. The event was attended by prospective students, local businesses, and area partners. Tours were given of the Center's classrooms, and information sessions were provided about adult education classes being offered this fall. Among these offerings are courses in Adult Basic Education, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESL - five levels), GED Preparation, and Family Literacy. A computer skills for workers course is also being taught for the first time as a result of the City's increased focus on developing the area's workforce. This class is free, with ESL students as the target audience, and teaches students how to type, write resumes, search the internet for jobs, complete online applications, and open an email account.

In addition to offering its traditional curriculum, the ALC also works with area businesses to provide custom-designed classes for employees. Employers can elect for their employees to attend classes at the ALC's facility or have teachers come onsite to the place of employment to teach. For more information about the Adult Learning Center and its programs, please call 434-245-2817.

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The Office of Economic Development is the City's primary vehicle for economic development services. Our mission is to serve as a catalyst for public and private initiatives that promote the long-term economic vitality of Charlottesville. The Economic Development staff works to expand the tax base and to provide quality job opportunities for citizens through new business development, retention/expansion initiatives, and workforce training. The Office also coordinates and administers

the functions of the Charlottesville Economic Development Authority (CEDA).  
The  
Authority issues revenue bonds and assists with front end capital for projects.