

# PRESS RELEASE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

The Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center will begin a new internship and mentoring program. Funded by a grant from the Virginia Tobacco Commission, the new program will be open to degree-seeking students at the Higher Ed Center.

Dr. Rachel Fowlkes, Executive Director of the Higher Ed Center, noted: "In today's competitive global business environment, our college students need more than a good education. Employers increasingly expect graduates to already have significant work experience. Through this new program, we will expand internship opportunities in the Tri-Cities as well as other sites in Virginia and abroad."

The new program will also feature a mentorship program for college students. Mentors will come from the area business and professional communities, as well as retired business executives in the Washington County area. The Center's College for Older Adults program currently has 300+ members, and will be an important source for new mentors.

George Hiller, Director of International Business and Education Programs at the Higher Ed Center will be in charge of developing the new internship/mentorship programs. He will also be coordinating the

planned 2008 International Business Study in China program for area college students. This new initiative will be funded by a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Education's Business and International Education program.

For additional details about the above programs, please consult the [www.globalvirginia](http://www.globalvirginia) site or contact George Hiller at (276) 619-4374. His e mail address is [ghiller@swcenter.edu](mailto:ghiller@swcenter.edu).