



News from

Congressman Rick Boucher

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BOUCHER ANNOUNCES FEDERAL GRANT FOR RETURN TO ROOTS

\$50,000 Grant Will Enhance Outreach Effort to Individuals and Families with Southwest Virginia Ties

(Washington, DC) – U.S. Representative Rick Boucher announced today that, at his urging, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, through its Rural Development Agency, is awarding a federal grant in the amount of \$50,000 to increase the reach and resources offered by Return to Roots. Return to Roots is an innovative program managed by the Virginia Economic Bridge, which provides individuals who have Southwest Virginia ties and an interest in returning to the region, with information regarding career opportunities in the region, as well as other resources they might require when relocating.

“Our region offers an outstanding quality of life which simply cannot be found in many other localities, and many with Southwest Virginia roots have an interest in returning to our area to raise a family and pursue various career opportunities. The Return to Roots program has been a major success with nearly 650 people registering with the organization from across the country and across the globe, as well as 250 regional employers,” said Boucher.

Currently, the Return to Roots program serves individuals and businesses in Lee, Scott, Wise, Russell, Dickenson, Buchanan, Tazewell, Smyth, and Washington Counties. With the benefit of the grant funds announced today, Return to Roots will launch the second phase of its program to expand its reach to Bland, Giles, Wythe, Pulaski, Grayson, Carroll, Floyd, and Montgomery Counties. Outreach to businesses throughout Southwest Virginia which are seeking employees will be increased to provide those looking to return to the region with additional career choices to pursue.

Additionally, the grant funds will further enhance the Return to Roots website where those seeking employment in the region can post their resumes, and Southwest Virginia employers can search for potential job applicants. The second phase will also include an increase in Return to Roots advertising in major cities such as Charlotte, Cincinnati, and Atlanta and the Northern Virginia region, areas which contain large populations with Southwest Virginia ties.

“I am pleased that the Rural Development Agency has provided this measure of federal funding to expand the reach of Return to Roots and build upon its considerable success,” Boucher concluded.

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