

New Charter School ... (continued from page 1)

school to college, meeting the needs of current businesses and industry in Floyd County and improving the ability to attract new business, and impact the system's graduation rate.

Floyd County Schools and Coosa Valley Technical College moved one step closer to meeting these goals by receiving a \$3.2 million check for the new career academy being developed as a joint project along with the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce. The grant from the state was presented by Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle on November 13th to representatives of Floyd County. Witnessing the presentation were Senator Preston Smith and Representative Katie Dempsey.

Lt. Gov. Cagle stated that the state is delivering on its promise to provide a new and innovative approach to educating Georgia's students. He believes that the partnerships of career academies and technical colleges, along with area businesses, give students a great start toward their future careers. This venture will help provide students with a seamless transition from high school to college and then into the workforce.


Floyd County will use this grant money and combine it with other similar funds and contributions to create an additional 16,000-square-foot building on the campus of the Floyd County Technical High School. This addition will contain the automated manufacturing and industrial systems labs for the Floyd County Schools College and Career Academy.

"Having the long standing partnership between the Floyd County Schools and Coosa Valley Technical College was in our favor to being one of only five in Georgia

who received a grant," said **Dr. Craig McDaniel**, *President of Coosa Valley Technical College*. "We approached this from a workforce development perspective. Our goal is to increase the number of students who will be able to go to work for the area employers."

One of the priorities that businesses want in a community is a highly qualified workforce. This training for students will provide a well trained and skilled workforce which will help existing employers and attract new businesses to our area. The Floyd County Schools College and Career Academy, through an online needs assessment, is identifying the needs of employers in the community and match the education being taught at the academy. The academy will focus on integrating high school academics and advanced career education programs. As a result, high school students will be exposed to the requirements of college coursework and the expectations of business and industry.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our community, our high school students, and our local industries," said *Chairman of the Chamber Board Evie McNiece*, *Accounting Solutions Plus*. "The ability to provide an educated, work-ready group of graduates is essential to the economic development efforts of a highly technical workforce in the current competitive environment. The power of the partnership between the Floyd County School system and Coosa Valley Technical College speaks volumes of what our community can accomplish with collaborative efforts. Rome was one of five cities to get a grant of 3.2 million."

The new academy is slated to open in the Fall of 2008. **Frank Pinson** was selected to be the *CEO of the College and Career Academy*. 

NEW EVENT ...

NEW NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce would like to introduce a new event that will provide a new networking opportunity for you ... **OPERATION MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**. Volunteers are needed during Operation Membership Directory to deliver each Chamber member business their 2008 copy of the Chamber membership directory. This event will be structured much like **Operation Thank You** where volunteers will have a group of 10-12 members to deliver to all that are in the same geographical area. This is a great opportunity to meet other Chamber members and make valuable business contacts. Please contact **Alison Smith** at asmith@romega.com or 706.291.7663 if you would like to participate.

Operation Membership Directory is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, 2008. 

Sponsorship Opportunities

There are some Business Before Hours and Young Professionals of Rome events available for sponsorship in 2008. These are two of our most popular networking events. All events are marketed on www.romega.com, in the PINNACLE and at every Chamber committee meeting. Your business will be exposed to over 2,200 people. Contact **Alison Smith**, Director of Membership, today to schedule your event. 

Contact Information:
asmith@romega.com
or 706.291.7663.

JOBS!
@ WWW.ROMEGA.COM