

Help Determine Program Needs for New Charter School

The process in opening the new *Floyd County College and Career Academy Charter School* has entered the next phase. The Charter School Committee has launched the Needs Assessment phase of the process. The Needs Assessment will be a two stage effort to involve Floyd County businesses and industries in developing the programs that will be available to students at the new charter school. The Needs Assessment will determine the employment needs of the community and the skills students must have when entering the workforce.

"This is a new way of approaching the education process," stated **Dr. Lynn Plunkett**, *Deputy Superintendent of Floyd County Schools*. "We are going directly to the community to find out what employers want from the future labor force and designing programs to address the needs of the local job market."

The online survey will be available through the end of September.

The information will be gathered from the business community using two survey methods. All employers in Floyd County will be invited to complete an online survey to assess their employment needs. The larger employers in the area, with 50 or more employees, will also be given an opportunity to have an on-site survey completed by members of the Charter School Needs Assessment Committee. The committee wants to make sure that the assessment has the most accurate data possible from the larger employers in Floyd County.

"For this survey to provide the information needed to make the new Charter School relevant for Floyd County, we must ensure that the data is obtained from our largest employers," stated *Committee Chairman Pete McDonald (LR'87)*, *Vice President for Economic Development at Coosa Valley Technical College*. "The members of the committee will be available to assist any large employer wishing to have an on-site visit." Any employer wishing an on-site visit should contact Floyd County Schools at 706.234.1031.

The Needs Assessment is available on the Floyd County Schools website at www.floydboe.net. The link to the Needs Assessment will be located prominently on the website's home page. Links to the survey will also be available on websites of Coosa Valley Technical College, the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce, and the *Rome News-Tribune*. The link will be located in the online business section of the *Rome News-Tribune's* website. All local businesses and industries are encouraged to complete the Needs Assessment Survey.

"It is extremely important that local employers participate in this assessment," said **Kelly Henson (LR'04)**, *Superintendent of Floyd County Schools*. "For this Charter School to be successful we must have programs that address the future and present employment needs of the community."

The Charter School is one of many focal points of the current update of the Rome-Floyd 20/20 Community and Economic Development Plan, a collaboration

between the *City of Rome*, Floyd County and the Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce. It is clear that Rome and Floyd County's economic, education and workforce development leaders must view and treat local education and training as a collaborative system, aligned with the needs of local businesses. 

RIFF Hits Rome Sept. 6-9

The *Rome International Film Festival* is educating, entertaining, networking, and adding to the image of Rome as a burgeoning arts community and a friendly place to visit. It's also building a reputation as one of the best film festivals in the country.

This year, RIFF will feature 125 films representing more than 35 countries with a wide variety of films in the categories of narrative, documentary, animation, and experimental, both feature length and shorts. Screenings will take place September 6th-9th in historic downtown Rome.

"I think this is one of the strongest film rosters we have ever presented," said **Harry Musselwhite**, RIFF Programming Director. "We have been universally hailed by the independent film press this year, and our exciting submissions quality truly reflects the way the film festival world views the RIFF."

RIFF has been named one of 20 "Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee" in the current issue of *MovieMaker* magazine, the best-selling independent film magazine in the world. In the article, *MovieMaker* describes RIFF as "southern hospitality with an international flair."

"This is a huge honor for Rome and the Rome International Film Festival," said **Barry Norman**, RIFF Founder and Executive Director. "Rome should be proud to be included among the ranks of the best independent film festivals in the country, especially when you consider that there are literally hundreds of film festivals just in the United States." RIFF was also named "Festival of the Week" on the *MovieMaker* website earlier this year.

The Rome International Film Festival will begin on Thursday, with the Opening Night Film at the *Rome City Auditorium* and the Opening Night Gala in the *Forrest Place Ballroom*. Films will screen all day and evening on Friday and Saturday, and all day Sunday at the *DeSoto Theatre* and *The Forum*. The festival will conclude with the Awards Ceremony on Sunday evening, September 9th. 

**For more
information call
706.295.2787 or
visit the festival
website at
www.riff.tv.**

