COMMUNITY COLLEGE CHANCELLOR COMMENDS PROGRAM’S PARTNERSHIPS

Virginia’s Community Colleges are placing a priority on helping more people in rural Virginia pursue and complete a college education. After all, the good jobs and the promising opportunities of the 21st century increasingly demand a postsecondary credential.

Thanks to our partners in the Virginia General Assembly and Governor Terry McAuliffe’s office, our colleges gained some tremendous tools in this work. The first is a public investment in our Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative, which aims to reduce the number of high school dropouts and increase the number of college graduates throughout the rural regions that make up three-fourths of the Commonwealth.

The second is a historic investment in our short-term training programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials. Such credentials represent to individuals the fastest way out of poverty. For businesses, they represent the educated and trained talent they aggressively seek.

The new Power Line Worker Training School at Southside Virginia Community College represents what can happen when these types of efforts and focus come together. We are proud to stand with some tremendous partners, like Virginia’s electric cooperatives, to transform a great idea into a graduate-producing program in about a year.

Virginia’s Community Colleges were created 50 years ago to address Virginia’s unmet needs in higher education and workforce training — a noble-sounding mission that creates real-life success. Don’t take my word for it. Ask Virginia’s newest power-line workers about the nearly one-dozen credentials they each earned over 11 weeks. Even better, ask the businesses that can’t wait to hire them. — Glenn DuBois, chancellor, Virginia’s Community Colleges

I took a picture of a monarch butterfly last year and it looks almost exactly like this one. I really enjoyed the butterfly issue. People need to be educated on monarchs and their decline in recent years. I always tell people about them and what they can do to help the population such as planting milkweed, their main source of nutrition. I found some milkweed pods last year and planted the seeds in my yard this spring. I’ve already seen a lot of swallowtails.

I’ve had a love of photography all my life but just recently got more serious about it. Nature photography is definitely my favorite.

— Gloria Fitzwater, Nokesville

MAY COVER A MIRACULOUS METAMORPHOSIS METAPHOR

The beautiful butterfly on the May issue’s cover reminds us of its miraculous metamorphosis.

We will need a metamorphosis even more miraculous than the butterfly to transform our energy economy from high-carbon to low-carbon.

Carbon Fee and Dividend is the cocoon we need and it works like this:

WhatzIt?

Make your best guess at this photo of a familiar but unidentified object. Send it in writing with your name, address and phone number to WhatzIt?, c/o Cooperative Living, P.O. Box 2340, Glen Allen, VA 23058-2340; or guess online at www.co-opliving.com under “Contests.” Deadline for entries is June 20. All correct entries will be put into a drawing and a winner announced in the August 2016 issue. The winner will receive a check for $25.