

BOUCHER ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FUNDING FOR MAJOR EXPANSION OF VIRGINIA TECH CORPORATE RESEARCH CENTER

\$1,980,000 Federal Grant Will Nearly Double Center's Size

At my urging, the U.S. Department of Commerce through its Economic Development Administration is providing a federal grant of \$1,980,000 to expand the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center (CRC). The CRC is a major economic resource for the region. It encompasses 24 buildings housing 140 private research companies, and it employs more than 2000 individuals.

The federal funding will enable the construction 18 additional buildings housing up to 100 companies employing an additional 2500 individuals on a 95 acre site adjacent to the Center's current 120 acre site. As part of the project, water and wastewater lines will be installed throughout the site, a road will be built to the site, and fiber optic lines will be installed to provide high speed Internet services to the expanded Center. The federal funds will be matched by the Virginia Tech foundation.

The Corporate Research Center was constructed with two previous allocations of federal funding. In 1985, a grant of \$600,000 provided the first infrastructure needed to construct the Center, and in 2001, a grant of \$2 million was provided at my request to create the successful VT KnowledgeWorks business incubator at the Center.

Photo caption: Congressman Boucher is joined by Ray Smoot and a representative of the U.S. Department of Commerce as he announces funding for an expansion of the Corporate Research Center, which will almost double its size.

VIRGINIA TECH RECEIVES SINGLE LARGEST GRANT AWARD IN SCHOOL'S HISTORY

More than \$27 Million Federal Grant Will Benefit Virginia Bioinformatics Institute

The National Institutes of Health, a federal agency, has awarded Virginia Tech \$27,670,448 to further the valuable work performed by its Virginia Bioinformatics Institute. The funding will advance the Pathogen Portal project, which is a vast database of information involving infectious diseases. The database supports biomedical research across the nation, serving as a key tool for scientists, researchers and agencies in analyzing data from research involving infectious diseases.

Virginia Tech is a leader in bioinformatics related to infectious diseases, and the award of \$27 million is a federal recognition of the expertise resident at the Bioinformatics Institute. Since its inception, the Institute has received more than \$90 million in federal funding, more than \$15 million of which was obtained through federal appropriations approved by Congress at my request.

FEDERAL FUNDS WILL BENEFIT SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA LEGAL AID'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND REPRESENTATION PROGRAMS

The U.S. Department of Justice, through its STOP Violence Against Women Grant Program, is providing a federal grant in the amount of \$561,391 to the Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society. Studies have indicated that the availability of comprehensive legal and support services for victims can be a factor in reducing the incidence of domestic violence.

With the benefit of the federal funds, Southwest Virginia Legal Aid will hire staff to provide legal representation and enhance support services for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence at its offices in Marion, Castlewood and Christiansburg. A portion of the funding will be distributed to several community organizations throughout the region which offer support services for victims.

BOUCHER ACQUIRES \$7.2 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT TO CONSTRUCT SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA'S FIRST VETERANS CEMETERY

Construction Now Underway on 80 Acre Site in Pulaski County

At my urging, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded a federal grant of \$7,218,366 to the Commonwealth of Virginia to enable the construction of Southwest Virginia's first veterans cemetery near Dublin. The first phase of the cemetery will consist of 24 acres and is expected to meet the needs of the region's veterans for the coming decade.

Our region does not currently have a veterans cemetery, and the nearest one to our area is in the Eastern part of Virginia. So that we can properly honor the Southwest Virginians who have served our nation in uniform, I have made it a goal to build a veterans cemetery in the 9th District.

In the Fall of 2006 we took the first step toward achieving that goal, when the U. S. Congress passed legislation I introduced committing the federal government to the project and directing the U. S. Army to convey 79.8 acres of federally owned land to the Commonwealth of Virginia for the purpose of establishing the region's first veterans cemetery.

With the award of the federal construction grant, construction has now begun, and the cemetery will be open in the Fall of 2010. When completed, Southwest Virginia's veterans cemetery will provide burial opportunities for 60,000 veterans and their families from across the region.

Veterans who have a desire to be buried in the cemetery may submit a pre-application for approval for interment. For more information or to obtain a pre-application for interment, please contact my Pulaski constituent service office at 540-980-4310.

Photo: Congressman Boucher is joined by veterans in Dublin as he announces a \$7.2 million federal grant to build Southwest Virginia's first veterans cemetery.