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Shenandoah Valley Energy Partnership Wins Rural Summit Best Practices Award *–VMA Recognized in Award Ceremony–*

RICHMOND, VA – During Virginia’s Rural Summit Reception on Monday, September 12, 2011, the Shenandoah Valley Energy Partnership (SVEP) received a Best Practices Award for its role in developing a statewide collaboration in workforce development. The Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) is one of the partners within that collaboration. “I was pleased to be with Sharon Johnson [Director, SVEP] and Robin Sullenberger [CEO, Shenandoah Valley Partnership] to accept this award,” remarked Alice Scott, VMA’s Director of Marketing & Member Services. “Recognition of the work of this partnership is a direct reflection of Sharon’s vision and leadership for the Shenandoah Valley Energy Partnership as well as the spirit of collaboration Robin has fostered in the Shenandoah Valley.”



Robin Sullenberger, Sharon Johnson & Alice Scott

The SVEP is a national model of public and private collaboration as well as traditional and non-traditional education and training. “Addressing skill development for unemployed, underemployed and incumbent workers in our communities requires innovative thinking and partnerships for success,” observes Katherine DeRosear, VMA’s Director of Workforce Development. “It also requires impacting the next generation early and often to provide a new understanding of what these advanced technology job opportunities are and what education and skills they require.”

One of SVEP’s collaborative efforts is with the VMA’s *Dream It Do It Virginia (DIDIV)* and regionally branded as *Dream It Do It Virginia – Shenandoah Valley (DIDIV-SV)*. In October 2010, DIDIV-SV awarded 15 mini-grants totaling \$95,904 to implement activities that encourage students to explore careers in manufacturing, healthcare, information technology, construction, and green related occupations. The DIDIV-SV projects are expected to impact over 7,000 students in 19 high schools, seven technical centers, and six middle schools.

For more information on the Shenandoah Valley Energy Partnership and its grant opportunities for workforce development, please visit www.svenerypartnership.com.

For more information about the VMA’s workforce development programs and SVEP grant funding eligibility, please visit www.vamanufacturers.com/workforcedevelopment or contact Katherine DeRosear at kderosear@vamanufacturers.com.