

# POCAHONTAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

### PERSON & BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

At this year's annual dinner, the Chamber honored Lauren Bennett and Glades Hardware for their commitment to the Pocahontas County community. Lauren, who heads up Parks & Rec, provides children and adults with the opportunity to lead active lives through recreational programming. Glades Hardware was named Business of the year for their continued support of local causes, from youth sports teams to Relay for Life. Congratulations to Lauren and Glades, and thanks for working to improve your community!



### YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM

The Young Professionals Program (YPP), which the Snowshoe Foundation funded last fall, has been pushed back due to a busy spring schedule at Pocahontas County High. The YPP is a collaborative program that the Chamber initiated in an effort to assist PCHS with its student mentorship program.

PCHS requires each student to complete a "72-hour work-based learning experience (mentorship)" in order to graduate; students typically complete these in the summer before their senior year. It must correspond to the student's particular field of study and is intended to help students make more informed career decisions.

The Chamber will now be hosting a Career Networking Day at PCHS in early fall, during which students, teachers, and business owners can meet and discuss mentorship opportunities. A Career Networking Day will grant them exposure to the interview process; meeting and talking with local business owners will ensure a much more meaningful mentorship experience.

## ROADKILL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

The annual RoadKill Cook-off/Autumn Harvest Festival is just around the corner, and the Chamber will need volunteers to make it run smoothly. If you can help out, please contact VISTA Emily Lassiter at (304)799-2509 or emilylelassiter@gmail.com.

The new website is under construction—keep checking [www.pccocwv.com](http://www.pccocwv.com)!



## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM, CONTINUED

It will also provide mentors with the opportunity to advertise their businesses and to recruit potential future employees. We only have a few member businesses participating thus far; please join us and promote the Pocahontas County business community! If you are interested in being a mentor business, please contact VISTA Emily Lassiter at (304)799-2509 or emilylelassiter@gmail.com, with the following information:

- *Contact person & their information*
- *Mentorship categories (listed below)*
- *Brief description of your mentorship program*

### Membership Categories

**Arts & Humanities:** Art, graphic design, TV, radio, newspaper, etc.

**Business & Marketing**

**Health:** Doctors, hospitals, etc.

**Engineering & Technical:** Computer networking, electrical, electronics, construction, welding

**Human Services:** Hospitality, police, EMT, HazMat, ProStart Foods, cosmetology, daycare, nail care

**Agri-Science and Natural Resources:** Agri-business, forestry, mechanics of agri equipment, etc.

*If your industry is not listed, please contact us for assistance.*

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY UPDATE

The 2011 Business Directory is almost ready to go! Distribution will start in early July—make sure to look

for your copy in the Pocahontas Times! We'll also be giving members copies to distribute to customers & friends.

All information in the directory will appear on the new and updated Chamber website, which is coming soon.

## VISTA INTRODUCTION

Hi! Some of you may have heard from me already—my name is Emily Lassiter, and I'm the Chamber's new VISTA volunteer. I grew up in North Carolina and graduated from UNC in 2009. Last year, I was the VISTA at the

Pearl Buck Birthplace. I've got some big shoes to fill—my roommate Kat was excellent as the Chamber's VISTA last year—but with your help I think we can make 2011 a

successful year! If you need to get in touch with me, feel free to email me at emilylelassiter@gmail.com. I look forward to working with all of you!