

mikejohnson

From: Johnson, Lonnie [lojohns2@vt.edu]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 8:08 AM
To: mikejohnson@co.southampton.state.va.us; admn@isleofwightus.net
Subject: Isle of Wight/Southampton 4-H Agent

Dear Mike and Doug,

As you know, we have tried multiple scenarios over the course of the last year or so to fill the voids in the local extension office. Last July we transferred our District Forestry and Natural Resources Agent to the Southampton Office in order to provide at least some agent presence for Southampton. At that same time we also transferred our Commercial Vegetable Agent to Isle of Wight county to assume the ANR Agent responsibilities.

Since the initial transfers VCE created a restructure plan to address our current statewide vacancies. That plan has since been placed on hold and will be revised over the next year or so. In order to move forward with some of our critical vacancies the Dean instructed the State Staff team to identify what we thought our most individual critical vacancies are at this time.

I have been successful at obtaining an ANR position for Southampton County and will be re-advertising that position in the next few days. I also have the opportunity to provide your counties with one 4-H Agent to share if you are comfortable allowing VCE to utilize the existing funds in each of your local VCE budgets for 4-H. The net effect would be that the position would serve both localities equitably. There are existing 4-H offices in both counties and I would expect the Agent to spend time in each of the local offices, however the most important factor would be to provide visible Youth Development Programming in both localities.

As a follow up to our conversations earlier this week, this position could be advertised in the next 3-6 weeks. Our plan is to advertise 15-17 positions statewide (5-6 positions at a time) on 3 week intervals. Please share this information with your local Boards of Supervisors and contact me if there should be any questions regarding this position. This would require that the position be funded 1/3 by Isle of Wight, 1/3 by Southampton, and 1/3 by the State. The state will provide operating support for the agent to include additional travel to account for two county travel, a smart phone, postage and printing, training, etc.

I think that this is a great opportunity to address our critical vacancies and I appreciate your willingness to support VCE in this manner. I will be prepared to advertise this position as soon as I can get final approval to move forward from you. You can call me at 804-527-4251 (Office), 804-712-6478 (Mobile) or you can contact me via email at lojohns2@vt.edu<mailto:lojohns2@vt.edu>. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Thank you for your continued support for VCE.

Lonnie Johnson
Southeast District Director