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**Organization:** Mitchell County Historic Courthouse Foundation

**Project Name:** Mitchell County Virtual Learning and Communications Center

**Project Type:** Public Computer Center

**State(s):** North Carolina

**Federal Award:** \$239,194

**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

The Mitchell County Virtual Learning and Communications Center project plans to double the number of public computer workstations available to residents of Mitchell County, NC, provide job training and educational courses through the local community college and extension service, and expand broadband Internet access by creating a Wi-Fi hotspot in the newly-renovated historic courthouse that will reach the adjacent library and parts of downtown Bakersville, NC. The project expects to provide 28 laptops that can be checked out from the courthouse, and serve over 300 users per week with broadband access and training. Mayland Community College and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service plan to use two new videoconferencing systems provided with grant funds to provide much-needed Courses and workshops for a broad audience.

The Mitchell County Historic Courthouse Foundation's Virtual Learning and Communications Center project also proposes to:

- Provide educational offerings such as General Equivalency Diploma courses to address the needs of displaced workers, high school dropouts, educators, and government officials.
- Offer continuing education courses to firefighters, emergency medical services personnel and other human services providers.
- Offer courses to train more than 100 farmers on production and marketing of new crops, filling a critical need for this farming region.

**ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY**

The Mitchell County Historical Courthouse Foundation is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization, dedicated to improving the overall quality of life for county residents through education, historic preservation, and community development programs. Established in 2007, this organization is a public-private partnership of local residents, the Mitchell County Historical Society, the County Commissioners, and the Town of Bakersville.

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

- Mitchell County Public Library
- Mayland Community College
- North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service
- Town of Bakersville

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or [press@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:press@ntia.doc.gov). For the general public, contact [BTOP@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:BTOP@ntia.doc.gov).

