

BGF to Relocate Headquarters, R&D to Cyber Park

Gov. Ralph Northam's office recently announced that BGF Industries Inc. will invest \$7 million and create 65 new jobs by relocating its corporate headquarters and research and development operation from Greensboro, N.C., to the Cyber Park where the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR) also dwells. As part of its efforts to catalyze regional economic transformation, IALR played a distinct role in supporting economic developers' successful recruitment of this leading U.S. manufacturer and looks forward to an ongoing relationship.

BGF, which produces high-performance technical fiber materials, will initially construct a 25,000-square-foot facility in 2019 in the Cyber Park owned by Danville-Pittsylvania County Regional Industrial Facility Authority (RIFA). They are in the process of moving onto IALR's campus to take advantage of near-term temporary space and lab space during their facility construction. BGF will occupy two bays, the second floor of the SenTec building and one wing of the Charles Hawkins building.



"This most recent investment in the Danville and Pittsylvania Cyber Park will supply us with the R&D capacity and talented workforce to ... succeed in our efforts," said CEO and Chairman of Porcher Industries Andre Genton.

In addition to the near-term temporary space, IALR's partnership will provide the following benefits: access to IALR's advanced materials scientist and research expertise, leading-edge equipment and top-rate labs; proximity to the construction site of BGF's new facility; and support services of IALR's administrative staff during BGF's IALR campus residence.

Harlow to Build Its First U.S. Plant in Cyber Park

Further validating and enhancing Southern Virginia's economic transformation, Gov. Ralph Northam also recently announced that Harlow Group Ltd. will invest \$8 million to locate its first U.S. precision sheet metal fabrication plant, to be called Harlow Fastech, in the Danville-Pittsylvania County RIFA-owned Cyber Park.

The United Kingdom-based company will also establish within the Cyber Park a U.S. Training Center of Excellence, a

new facility with a focus on additive manufacturing. The growth plans of this leading provider of precision engineered, fabricated, machined and 3D-printed additive components will create 49 new jobs.



"With its pipeline of skilled talent and unmatched infrastructure, Southern Virginia has once again attracted a leading international manufacturer," said Gov. Northam. "We are confident that Harlow Group will flourish from its new home in the region."

Harlow Group CEO and Founder Alan Pearce said IALR is "a world-leading education and technology center, producing highly motivated and capable students and stands as a beacon to the rest of the world to emulate."

Like BGF, the manufacturing talent pipeline (including that of the Gene Haas Center for Integrated Machining at IALR), the partnership opportunities with IALR and others, and IALR's near-term temporary space were part of the determining factors for Harlow's choice of Southern Virginia. Harlow will become an IALR campus resident while their facility is built and will benefit from IALR's support services.

Newport News Shipbuilding Visits

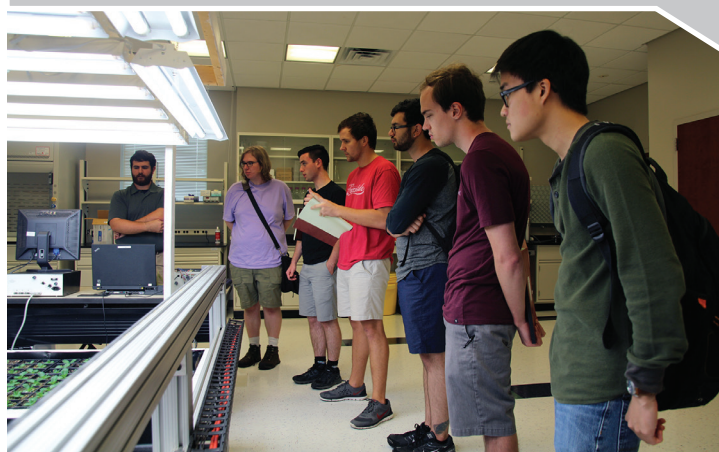
Thanks to New College Institute's collaboration, IALR hosted Newport News Shipbuilding's (NNS) Digital Mobile Experience Trailer. Interactive, hands-on demonstrations allowed participants to experience 3D modeling, laser scans and augmented reality—technology used by NNS to transform to a digital environment. Members of the community and students of the Academy for Engineering and Technology and the Piedmont Governor's School for Mathematics, Science and Technology attended, exposing them to NNS's advanced manufacturing environment.



VT Students Upgrade SMART Tables

To support precision agriculture, IALR continues to maintain an active SMART table program, led by Daniel Caccavelli. A new Virginia Tech Senior Design Mechanical Engineering team is working with Caccavelli to improve the SMART tables' nutrient delivery system for more precise experimental conditions.

The SMART tables are precision imaging platforms that track plant growth and provide insight into the plant's population responses to environmental stimuli without harm to the plant, all while under controlled conditions.



Big Launch Challenge a Success

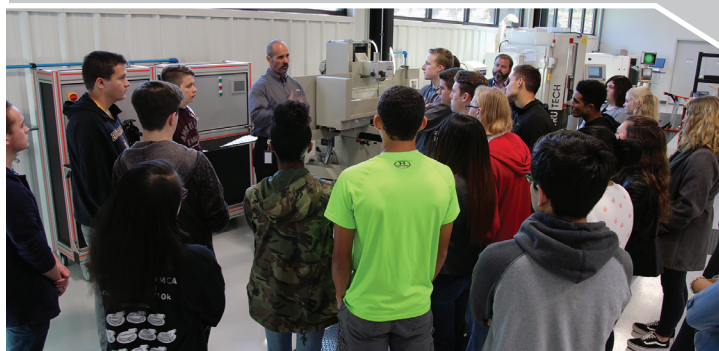
Committed to driving economic transformation, IALR served as the venue for The Big Launch Challenge, a pitch competition awarding up to \$20,000 to winning entrepreneurs. The 5th annual business plan competition was held by The Launch Place, an entrepreneurial development organization, and First Flight Venture Center, a technology incubator in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Each year, the challenge offers startups business networking and capital opportunities, as well as critical resources. Visit www.thelaunchplace.org for results.



AET Students Tour Kyocera

Students of the Academy for Engineering and Technology at IALR toured Kyocera SGS Tech Hub's new facility, located in the Cyber Park across from IALR. They learned from the manufacturer's President, Jason Wells, about the company, the reasoning behind the innovative design of their building, and the area's talent pipeline and other assets that attracted Kyocera to Southern Virginia.



Community Health Worker Project Wins Awards



The Community Health Worker (CHW) project of the Dan River Region has won two awards for its positive impact. The Health Collaborative presented the CHW project with the 2018 THRIVE! Award at its annual Health Summit. In addition, Health Quality Innovators (HQI) selected the project as the first runner-up for its Rural Health category of their annual Virginia Innovators Awards event. IALR serves as the fiscal agent and project lead for the CHW program, which is in its third year of operation.

CHWs are public health workers who serve as a link between healthcare, social services and community members to increase access to services and improve health management.

"Creating healthy communities is one aspect of our mission we must always keep top of mind, because it

directly impacts our economic vitality," said Mark Gignac, IALR's Executive Director.

"I am extremely proud of the hard work and passion demonstrated by each of our Community Health Workers and Project Manager Amanda Young," said IALR's Director of Advanced Learning Dr. Julie Brown, who oversees the CHW project.

The THRIVE! Awards recognize "organizations and individuals who are going above and beyond to make the healthy choice the easy choice in the places where we live, learn, work, play, pray and age."

The CHW project's second award, presented as part of the 2018 Health Quality Innovator of the Year Awards, recognizes teams "for using evidence-based approaches to quality improvement that deliver better care, better population health and lower health care costs."

Partners of the CHW project include IALR, The Health Collaborative, PATHS Community Medical Center, Gateway Health, the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Caswell Family Medical Center, Danville Life Saving Crew, SOVAH Health, Centra and the Danville Regional Foundation.

Communications Team Wins Public Relations Awards

The Blue Ridge Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America recognized the efforts of IALR's Communications team with three awards at its 22nd annual Summit Awards Gala. Each year, the chapter honors outstanding work of local public relations practitioners with gold and silver Summit Awards in a wide variety of categories.

Among more than 70 entries in various campaign and tactics categories, IALR rose above the nominees to receive the Silver Award for Multimedia Program (two minutes or less), the Gold Award for Newsletter (external audiences), and Gold Award for Social Media. This was the second year in a row that IALR received an award for its Multimedia Program and the fourth year in a row for receiving an award for its Newsletter.

The Multimedia Program, a video, communicated the benefits and quality of IALR's summer internship program.



Daniel Dalton and Allison Moore

The Newsletter was refocused to include balanced content and IALR's mission of economic transformation. The Social Media tactic was a series of personalized graphics and posts to introduce each of IALR's summer interns.



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
February 25-26, 2019

Additional information is available at
www.industrialhempsummit.info

Strawberry Project Advances to Field Trials



IALR Researchers (L-R) Samantha Smith-Herndon, Robert Chretien and Dr. Sajeewa Amaradasa plant endophyte-inoculated strawberries in Buffalo Junction, Va., as part of the project's first field trials.

IALR researchers, in partnership with Aaron's Creek Farms Plant Nursery and the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), began their first field trials of endophyte-inoculated strawberries. The trials are part of a project to improve Virginia strawberry production and sustainability for a robust agricultural industry. Growers of this state specialty crop may benefit from this new phenomenon

as they fight common soil-borne diseases. Endophytes, or beneficial bacteria, are being explored as a natural and healthier disease-reduction agent. In the past, growers relied heavily on soil fumigants, such as methyl bromide which is now banned due to its negative effects on the environment and human health.

The two-year research project is funded by the Virginia Department of Agriculture. IALR and its team of experts previously tested promising endophyte treatments in greenhouse experiments to determine disease inhibition capabilities. Strawberry plantlets were then introduced to promising treatments and have now been transplanted to the field. The Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center assisted with the planting. The final stage will include working with farmers to observe plant growth performance and disease incidence under field studies. The VCE will oversee field trials and field data interpretation. Desired outcomes are focused on increasing strawberry health and productivity naturally compared to controls.

Dr. Brown Serves as Workforce Development Panelist

IALR continued to champion workforce development efforts and its support of the advanced manufacturing industry with a strong presence at the recent Additive Manufacturing Research Day. Presented by the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM), the event provides a forum to discuss challenges and solutions to manufacturing problems in a collaborative environment.

Dr. Julie Brown, IALR's Director of Advanced Learning, served as a panelist. She joined others to share insight on workforce development and training in additive manufacturing. With years of workforce development experience in such roles as the Project Director of the Dan River Region Collaborative, Brown has led many industry-driven initiatives. Just some of these include spearheading the region's efforts to meet criteria for the ACT Certified Work Ready Community program and acting as Interim



Director of the GO-TEC (Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers) initiative for GO (Growth and Opportunity) Virginia Region 3, which exposes middle school students to technology and engineering careers.

The Inspiration Lab, IALR's 45-foot mobile learning unit, was on site during the event to showcase STEM education opportunities. IALR's Dr. Jeremy Beach, Advanced Materials Scientist, and Bruce Waller, Program Coordinator, also participated.

www.ialr.org

9th Annual
Decorating
the Trees for a
Cause

Open House: December 4 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Vote: Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

November 26 - December 20

Special extended hours Dec. 1 (6-8 p.m.); Dec. 14, 17, & 19 (8 a.m.-7 p.m.)