

DAN RIVER REGION OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME NETWORK

# PROGRAM LAUNCHES TO BOND PROVIDERS



A child opens a magnetic tile box Jan. 17 at the after-school program at Kentuck Elementary School.

REGISTER & BEE, FILE

## Building upon previous cohort, new initiative begins next week

**CHARLES WILBORN**  
Danville Register & Bee

A new initiative will launch next week to connect and empower providers of care for children and teenagers after the school bell rings, signaling the end of the day.

Dubbed as the Dan River Region Out-of-School Time Network, it's a partnership of sorts between the Danville Regional Foundation and the United Way of Danville-Pittsylvania County.

Up to 50 are expected for the first session on Sept. 4.

Previously, there was "shared learning" among peers with a cohort last year, Susanne Bell, senior program officer with the Danville Regional Foundation, explained to the Register & Bee.

"Local afterschool and summer learning leaders wanted to be more connected and meet more consistently," Bell said of the new program.

"The United Way is an established and trusted convener with a commitment to education and DRF recognized the opportunity for them to create a space for leaders to convene, connect and collaborate," she continued. "They felt like a natural lead for this conversation."

The issue of child care continues to plague the region. Last year, a study released by the Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Outreach showed that about 800 slots were needed to fill the demand.

For many parents, the issue comes with options when school lets out for the day, holiday or summer.

The foundation will serve as a "strategic advisor" for the United Way, essentially what Bell calls "just another seat at the table."

A cohort last year was made up of people working with youth after school in not

only Danville and Pittsylvania County, but also Caswell County, North Carolina, to encompass the reach of the Danville Regional Foundation.

It included representatives from parks and recreation departments, YMCAs, and Boys and Girls Club agencies.

"It was learning from each other," Cathy Gore, president and CEO of the local United Way, told the newspaper in an interview last week. "It was just a real opportunity to come together as out-of-school time providers."

For example, there may be some resources that could be shared among several groups, or one organization could offer programming that others need. Being in the same room talking about the issues can lead to solutions that individually would have been elusive.

Please see **PROGRAM**, Page A2

## DANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# Apprenticeship programs grow with new agreement

**CHARLES WILBORN**  
Danville Register & Bee

Danville Community College expanded its apprenticeship offerings last week by signing an agreement with a South Boston company.

Leaders from Danville headed east Thursday to the small town, the headquarters of Rogers Heating & Cooling.

In a celebration that included DCC's mascot — Knighty the Mighty — it formalized the partnership to give DCC students hands-on experience in areas of heating, ventilation and air conditioning, something simply known as HVAC in the industry.

Last November, DCC was praised for its first apprenticeship program with KTL Restorations, a local company that restores high-end antique cars.

Basically, it means "you learn while you earn," DCC's apprenticeship coordinator Barry Richmond said last year of students who are employed in a field while still undergoing an education pathway.

Rogers Heating & Cooling is owned by Joey Rogers — a DCC graduate — and his wife, Alyssa.

The agreement signing solidified the connection between industry and

Please see **DCC**, Page A2



DANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CONTRIBUTED

Danville Community College President Cornelius Johnson; Jessica Dalton, vice president of workforce services; and mascot Knighty the Mighty celebrate an apprenticeship signing agreement with Rogers Heating & Cooling on Thursday in South Boston.