NEWS RELEASE

Local companies award $500,000 grant to support new teachers

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Ferguson, in partnership with Bayport Credit Union, Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of HII, and Virginia Natural Gas, awarded $500,000 to the Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) New Teacher Institute (NTI) program through the Accelerating Change Together (ACT) Grant. This significant grant supports the companies' shared commitment to education and workforce development and aligns with Ferguson's efforts to support economic development in its hometown.

The three-year grant will provide funding to expand NTI's first- and second-year teacher programs, develop a model program, offer credentialing assistance, and invest in Career and Technical Education and English as a Second Language teachers.

"We are fortunate to partner with companies that truly care about making our community a better place to live and work," said Melissa Hazelwood, Director of Social Impact. "This program will enhance the quality of education for new teachers and build a strong pipeline of educators that will benefit our community for years to come."

Launched in 2022, the ACT Grant initiative supports education and workforce development initiatives in Hampton Roads, Virginia, where the four companies are headquartered. The first recipient was the Virginia Beach Education

Foundation and Virginia Beach City Public Schools' new Advanced Technology Center Renewable Energy Technologies program.