



News Release

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WOODROW WILSON REHABILITATION CENTER STUDENTS REFURBISHING 500 DONATED COMPUTERS

Students gain on-the-job training, updated technology

(FISHERSVILLE, Va.) — Students with disabilities enrolled in job skills classes at the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center are honing their new capabilities as they refurbish some 500 donated desktop computers for use on the campus.

Students in the center's computer repair program are getting hands-on work experience this summer with the donation, said WWRC Director Rick Sizemore. The center provides vocational training for people with disabilities to assist them in obtaining employment and to live more independently.

The Commonwealth's Disability Determination Services, a division of the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, began donating the used computers earlier this month as a way to recycle the hardware and provide additional computers to the school, which is also part of DARS. On the morning of July 24, students from WWRC's materials handling program will unload another shipment of personal computers from delivery trucks and move them into storage until they can be refurbished by their classmates.

Under the guidance of Business and Information Technology Instructor Tracey Lisi and Information Technology Director Steven Conley, students studying to become computer support specialists disassemble the computer towers, blow out dust and debris and upgrade the memory before the computers are turned over for classroom use by fellow students, faculty and staff at the Fishersville campus. The students have completed work on more than 160 computers.

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“This is a win-win for all of us,” Sizemore said. “They completely cleaned all of these computers, upgraded internal components, tested the batteries and wiped the hard drives clean and are now installing them around campus. Thanks to DDS, we have newer computers around campus and our students in the program have obtained some great work experience in the process.”

The donation was made possible by DDS as its computers were recently upgraded by the Social Security Administration. DDS processes more than 115,000 Social Security and Medicaid disability claims a year. Its offices in Roanoke, Richmond, Fairfax and Norfolk process claims for Virginians. An additional site in Roanoke, funded by the SSA, serves as a federal resource in assisting other states, which include processing claims for residents of Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, California and New Hampshire.

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The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services provides and advocates for the highest quality of services to help older Virginians and those with disabilities maximize and secure their employment, independence and full inclusion into society. For more information, visit www.vadars.org.