

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**March 18, 2013**

**For more information, contact**

A.J. Hostetler, Public Relations Director  
[aj.hostetler@dars.virginia.gov](mailto:aj.hostetler@dars.virginia.gov)  
804-662-7372

Daisy Pridgen, Dominion  
[daisy.pridgen@dom.com](mailto:daisy.pridgen@dom.com)  
804-771-6115

## **WOODROW WILSON REHABILITATION CENTER STUDENTS SQUARE OFF IN FORKLIFT ‘RODEO’**

*Dominion Power donates used forklift for training*

**(FISHERSVILLE, Va.)** — Students from the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center will demonstrate their new workplace skills at lifting, maneuvering and transporting materials in a forklift “rodeo” using equipment donated by Dominion Resources, the parent company of Dominion Virginia Power.

The first groups of clients have trained on the donated Caterpillar forklift at the center, which provides vocational training for people with disabilities to assist them in obtaining employment and to live more independently. They will stage the rodeo for visiting Dominion and local business and community representatives at 11 a.m., March 20, on the WWRC campus. Dominion donated the forklift for WWRC client training to the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center Foundation.



“The Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center has a proven track record, with 74 percent of their graduates able to secure employment,” said Emmett Toms, Dominion’s External Affairs manager and president of the WWRC Foundation Board. “We are pleased the donation has helped boost training opportunities for another job skill that is in demand throughout Virginia. Students can obtain their forklift training certification and

return to their home community with another skill that will help them gain employment.”

Each year, about 30 students take forklift training as part of WWRC’s [program on materials handling](#), according to Director Rick Sizemore. Students receive both classroom and hands-on training that meets [Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards](#) and can complete the program within a week to 10 days. The skills are those needed to work in warehouses, distribution centers, lumber yards and similar worksites. With the addition of the donated forklift, the number of students taking forklift training will likely double this year.

“We frequently talk with employers across the Commonwealth about their workforce needs and adapt as needed so that our students have a solid foundation of valuable job skills when they graduate,” said Sizemore. “With more employers seeking applicants with forklift and materials handling skills, we’re grateful to Dominion for the donated forklift.”

The forklift, valued at \$6,500, arrived on campus in January and began its new life devoted exclusively to students taking forklift training. This addition to WWRC’s “fleet” makes it a valuable resource as well for students in other aspects of the materials handling program. Forklifts are a critical element of warehouses and distribution centers. Training on this new equipment will offer several hundred students a year the opportunity to apply for jobs as companies such as Daikin McQuay in Augusta County expand their presence in the Commonwealth.

“I’m glad to have the chance to drive it and get used to it. Nice to have our own forklift,” said Nick Allen, a student from Smithfield who will demonstrate his skills at the rodeo.

For more information about the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, part of the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, visit [wwrc.virginia.gov](http://wwrc.virginia.gov).

###

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](http://www.vadars.org) or [www.facebook.com/vadars](https://www.facebook.com/vadars).

Dominion (NYSE: D) is one of the nation's largest producers and transporters of energy, with a portfolio of approximately 27,400 megawatts of generation. Dominion operates the nation's largest natural gas storage system and serves retail energy customers in 15 states. For more information about Dominion, visit the company's website at [www.dom.com](http://www.dom.com). Follow Dominion on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/DomVAPower](https://www.twitter.com/DomVAPower). “Like” on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/dominionvirginiapower](https://www.facebook.com/dominionvirginiapower).