



Steve Vehorn
External Communications Coordinator
Office: 804.523.5229/Cell: 804.229.5186
svehorn@reynolds.edu

Immediate Release

Friday-only classes estimated to save students more than \$1,000 in gas and vehicle costs next semester

RICHMOND, VA (July 22, 2008) - While many colleges across the country are scheduling classes four days per week to help students cope with the rising fuel costs, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is piloting *Fuel \$mart Fridays*—a class schedule that allows students to drive to campus only one day a week and still earn a full load of credits for the semester.

With an average student commuting 20 miles daily, he will save driving 80 miles per week or 1,280 miles over a 16-week semester by participating in the *Fuel \$mart Friday* program. With gas at \$4.00 per gallon, the student can potentially save over \$1,080 per semester in vehicle operating costs* by attending classes on Friday only.

All classes will be held on the College's Parham Road Campus. They are scheduled as follows: 8 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.; noon - 2:40 p.m.; 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.; 7 p.m. - 9:50 p.m.

"We're all feeling the crunch at the gas pump," said Gary L. Rhodes, JSRCC president. "Here at the College, over 80 percent of our students work and some are on fixed incomes. This is just one way that we can help them further their education despite the rising cost of gas."

The College has added additional benefits for students participating in the *Fuel \$mart Friday* program, including additional tutors being available and expanded bookstore hours. Registration for fall semester and *Fuel \$mart Friday* classes is currently underway. For a full list of courses offered, visit www.reynolds.edu.

** According to the AAA website, the composite national average in 2007 to operate a vehicle was 52.2 cents a mile when gasoline costs an average \$2.50 per gallon. By adding a 62.5% increase for gasoline costing its current average of \$4.00 per gallon rate, it will cost a student an estimated 84.8 cents to travel a mile during the 2008 fall semester. A student traveling 1280 less miles a semester will save on the average \$1085.44.*

Serving over 18,000 students annually, J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College is the youngest and third largest of 23 community colleges in Virginia. The College operates three campuses serving residents in the City of Richmond and the counties of Henrico, Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan and Louisa.

###