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## **Hampton University Proton Therapy Institute wins state "Torchbearer" award**

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HAMPTON — Hampton University was honored by the state Chamber of Commerce this month with a " Virginia Torchbearer Award" for establishing the HU Proton Therapy Institute.

The award recognizes organizations such as local governments and research institutions that spur Virginia's economy by creating jobs, attracting new businesses, and spearheading revitalization projects.

HU was one of 40 nominees statewide, of which 12 were selected for the award. Honors were presented at this month's Virginia Economic Summit in Williamsburg.

HU's Proton Therapy Institute is the eighth proton facility in the nation and is expected to treat about 2,000 cancer patients each year. It began treating its first patients in August.

HU President William Harvey described the institute as a "unique private and public partnership that brings together health care providers, business, education, the military and private sector industry leaders."

According to the university, the institute created 2,000 jobs during the construction phase, which generated \$12 million for the local economy. Its start-up created another 57 jobs, totaling \$2.6 million in new employment salaries.

At peak operation, HU expects to have a total of 127 technologically-advanced jobs at an estimated \$5.1 million in annual salaries.

The institute, which treats patients with cancers including prostate, lung, brain, pediatric and other cancers, is expected to bring about 6,000 patients and visitors to the region each year. That includes patients, families, researchers and workforce trainees.

So far, the facility has received more than \$12 million in federal and private research funds, and is generating \$1.2 million in property tax revenues to the Virginia treasury.

The 12 winners were selected by a panel of judges, with one from each of 10 congressional

districts, one statewide program winner and the Project of the Year. HU was the winner for the state's third congressional district.

In the first congressional district, the Economic Development Authority of Newport News was awarded for Canon building a new automated plant to produce laser printer cartridges; and in the second district, the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development was recognized for its work.

Project of the Year went to the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority for the Northrop Grumman Corporate Headquarters Relocation.

The Torchbearer Award winners showcase the accomplishments and contributions that best exemplify what makes Virginia a top state in the nation for business, said Barry DuVal, president and CEO of the Virginia Chamber, in a statement.

"As we celebrate their accomplishments, we also look at how to maintain the vibrant pro-business environment that helps create quality jobs and build prosperity for all Virginians," he said.

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