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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VCU Offers Clinical Pastoral Education in Patient Counseling at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center

(Abingdon, VA) Clinical Pastoral Education through Virginia Commonwealth University's Patient Counseling Department is available through the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon. Applications are now being accepted and classes begin September 7 for the fall semester.

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) is a professional certification often sought by chaplains, counselors, and ministers of congregations to integrate a theory of spiritual care into their practice with persons in crisis. In addition to certification, the program of study leads to a Master of Science degree.

CPE is a graduate program and a bachelor's degree is a prerequisite for admission. Interested students should contact the program's local liaison, Link Elmore at 276-492-7814 or jlelmore@vcu.edu. Information is also available on the departmental website:

<http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/ptc/index.htm>

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MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center is to strengthen the regional economy of southwest Virginia by providing higher education and professional development training of the current and future workforce.