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FIRST REGIONAL CTE TAKEOVER DAY SPONSORED BY LOCAL EMPLOYERS

ELLISTON, VIRGINIA, November 2, 2023—Branch and Carilion are joining with several local businesses to take over Eastern Montgomery High School on Monday, November 6th in the first Career and Technical Education (CTE) Takeover Day.

While employees have long worked closely with local schools to attend career fairs, recruit apprentices, and showcase career options to classes, students often don't have time to explore careers in depth and talk to professionals who have made a living in that career. Branch sought a solution to this problem and engaged a local school that had high participation in their CTE (Careers and Technical Education) program.

"The construction industry is in unprecedented times, with unprecedented opportunities and fewer workers," noted Donald Graul, Branch CEO. "Branch always embraces opportunities like this CTE Takeover Day to dispel common myths about the engineering and construction industry."

Building the future construction workforce is a top priority for Branch, as 53% of the nation's skilled workforce is expected to retire by 2035. Branch, along with partners Carter Machinery, E.C. Pace, Trane, and the New River Home Builders Association will showcase several construction paths such as: Construction Management, Heavy Equipment Operator, Heavy Equipment Mechanic, Construction Technology, GPS Surveying, and the skilled trades of Electrical, Mechanical, Welding, and HVAC.

Since Branch focuses on careers in construction and the skilled trades, they invited Carilion Clinic to engage the students who are interested in a healthcare path. Carilion will be interacting with students interested in careers in: Emergency Management, Respiratory Therapy, Patient Transport, Medical Imaging, and Nursing.

Carilion's Director of Emergency Management, Craig Bryant, is an advocate for early career exploration opportunities and bringing awareness to the variety of careers available in healthcare.

"We look forward to speaking with students and educating them on career paths and opportunities within Carilion. Our commitment to taking care of patients, keeping our community healthy, and making sure our facilities are safe and operational requires a team approach from multiple career fields.

Carilion's team includes doctors, nurses, engineers, construction trades, police, paramedics, business and safety experts and many more who are dedicated to the community and our patients. In our workplace, we're devoted to the success of our employees. Some begin their career here in one of our many positions that require no prior experience. Other team members join Carilion as an experienced professional."

Eastern Montgomery is rounding out the program with alumni and student's parents in varying careers to participate. These groups will provide an opportunity for student engagement in eye health, emergency medicine, surveying, forestry, welding, graphic design, and pet grooming.

"We are excited for the chance to partner with community employers to help our students learn about different career opportunities! We focus on making sure students graduate college and are career-ready. We invite colleges and universities to meet with students to talk with them about those post-secondary paths, but this gives an opportunity for students that would rather go directly into the workforce after graduation to learn about and connect with local employers. We hope this will open their eyes to different career paths that they may be unaware of and learn some of the skills that will be necessary to succeed after they leave EMHS." Assistant Principal Matthew McDaniel states.

Students will choose five to six careers to explore, in lieu of their regular classes. Additionally, all students will receive guidance in soft skills, professionalism, and information on how to get the education or training they need to pursue one of these careers.

For more information about this event, please contact:

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About Branch

Headquartered in Roanoke, Virginia, and serving clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern United States, Branch touches all aspects of the built environment. As a full-service construction solutions partner, they are committed to exceptional performance and to developing business relationships sustained by mutual benefit and respect.

Branch has total revenues of nearly \$480 million and a workforce of over 1,100 employee owners. Through their Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), Branch ensures every employee has a vested interest in their success. Visit www.branchgroup.com to learn more.

About Carilion Clinic

Carilion Clinic is a not-for-profit, mission-driven health system built on progress and partnerships. Headquartered in Roanoke, Va., you'll find a robust system of award-winning hospitals, including Magnet designated Carilion Medical Center. We offer Level 1 and 3 trauma centers, Level 3 NICU, Institute of Orthopedics and Neurosciences, and multi-specialty physician practices. To develop the region's workforce, we partner with The Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine and Research Institute and Radford University Carilion. We work together to provide quality care close to home for nearly 1 million Virginians.

As a top Virginia employer, as ranked by Forbes, Carilion is a great place to start and build your career. Learn more about clinical and non-clinical career opportunities. Apply today at jobs.carilionclinic.org/ to join a dedicated team helping our region to grow stronger.