

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA Office of the Governor

Mark R. Warner Governor FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 9, 2005

Contact: Kevin Hall Phone: (804) 225-4260 Cell Phone: (804) 393-9406

Internet: www.governor.virginia.gov

Marc Ammen Christie Collins

Universal Fiber Systems Va. Economic Development Partnership

(276) 669-1161 (804) 371-4074

www.universalfibers.com www.YesVirginia.org

## GOVERNOR WARNER ANNOUNCES 82 NEW JOBS FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY

~Universal Fiber Systems to invest \$8 million to expand facility~

**RICHMOND** - Governor Mark R. Warner today announced that Universal Fiber Systems, a leading producer of fibers and yarns for carpet, upholstery, automotive, industrial and other textile applications, will invest \$8 million to expand its Prisma Fibers facility in Washington County. The project will create 82 new jobs and save 12 current jobs.

"Universal Fiber Systems has found great success in Washington County, with innovative products and a growing demand from its customers," said Governor Warner. "This project will improve the efficiency of Universal's current facility, bring additional diversity to the customer base, provide flexibility for further growth, and most importantly bring 82 new jobs to Washington County and Virginia."

Founded in 1969, Universal Fiber Systems is a producer of solution-dyed fibers for the flooring, transportation, industrial fiber and textile industries. The company was the first to introduce solution-dyed nylon to the world.

"Prisma Fibers is a cornerstone operation within Universal Fiber Systems. Universal's Board is pleased that the state and the county are co-investing in the growth prospects of Prisma," said R. Marcus Ammen, CFO of Universal Fiber Systems.

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Washington County and Virginia's aCorridor to secure the project for Virginia. Governor Warner approved a \$200,000 grant from the Governor's Opportunity Fund to assist Washington County with the project. The Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission approved \$200,000 in Tobacco Region Opportunity Funds for the project. The Virginia Department of Business Assistance will provide training assistance through its Workforce Services Jobs

Investment Program. The company is eligible to receive benefits from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development because it is expanding in an enterprise zone.

"Washington County is proud of Universal Fibers and its ability to diversify and find new innovative applications for their products worldwide," said John Roberts, Chairman of the Washington County Board of Supervisors. "We are also very pleased that this expansion will provide valuable jobs for our citizens and keep this company viable in the Bristol-Washington County Industrial Park for years to come."

###