



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Contact: Matt Charles**  
Phone: 434-799-8969

**DRF and the Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce  
Announce the 2012-2013 Speaker Series**

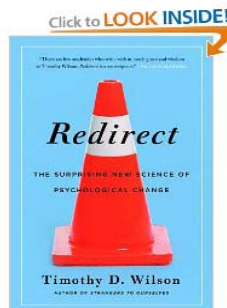
Danville, VA (September 18, 2012) – [DRF](#) and the [Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce \(DPCCC\)](#) are excited to announce the presenters for its **2012-2013 Speaker Series**. All Speaker Series events are **FREE** to the public.

DRF began the Speaker Series in 2009 by bringing innovative thinkers to the Dan River Region as part of the Foundation's work to transform the regional economy and create a prosperous and healthy culture benefitting all of the region's citizens. A result of the Speaker Series has been people developing more confidence in their community. Attendees take the speakers' messages home with them and share it with friends, family, and co-workers. These messages of positive change are contagious and spread quickly throughout the community.

DRF and the DPCCC are the Speaker Series sponsors; however, both organizations are still seeking additional community partners for each of the Speaker Series events.

**Tim Wilson**

**Monday, October 29, 2012 at 7:30 AM (IALR)**



Tim Wilson is the Sherrell J. Aston Professor of Psychology at the University of Virginia. He is the author of *Redirect: The Surprising New Science of Psychological Change*, which will serve as this year's **Community Read**. The books are **on sale at Averett Bookstore for only \$10** and made possible by DRF, The Kiwanis Club of Danville, Averett University, and the DPCCC. *Redirect* focuses on changing negative attitudes into positive ones. This is important as pessimistic thoughts often lead to negative behaviors. As the Dan River Region recreates itself,

it is important to have a positive mindset. When many members of our community take this approach, our region benefits through power in numbers.

In a separate event this day, Tim will talk with students from Danville Community College, Averett University, Piedmont Community College and Dan River Region high schools. One hundred high school students from Danville Public Schools are already signed up for this opportunity. This talk will take place at DCC's Oliver Hall at 11:30 AM following his Speaker Series Event. Tim Wilson will also be available for one-on-one conversation with students at the DCC Student Center at 12:30 PM.

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## **Bill Strickland**

**Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 6:30 PM (IALR)**



As a disadvantaged youth, Bill Strickland followed his dreams, never taking no for an answer in their pursuit. The MacArthur “Genius” Award recipient works with Manchester-Bidwell, a Pittsburgh-based organization focusing upon career training and youth arts education programs. The Dan River Region is similar to Bill’s hometown of Pittsburgh - we lost tobacco and textile industries, while Pittsburgh saw a significant portion of its steel industry leave its city. Bill is a natural fit to speak to our many residents who are thinking about or going through the job retraining process, as his organization retrained many of these displaced steel workers. At Manchester-Bidwell, Bill has also developed youth arts education programs. Many of the students have gone on to professional careers in the arts. He believes that creativity spurs positive growth, both in one’s personal and professional lives.

In addition, Bill will speak with locals going through or exploring workforce development training at a time and location to be determined. Bill Strickland will also talk with students on the subjects of the arts as trade or career and how creativity can benefit all aspects of one’s life.

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## **Vivek Wadhwa**

**Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 7:30 AM (IALR)**



Vivek Wadhwa is Vice President of Academics and Innovation at Singularity University, as well as Director of Research at the Center for Entrepreneurship and Research Commercialization at Duke University's Pratt School of Engineering and a Fellow at Stanford University's Toni Rembe Rock Center for Corporate Governance.

Vivek's area of focus is entrepreneurship and public policy. As the Dan River Region increases its competitive advantage through engagement of entrepreneurs, both locally and from outside the region, Vivek's work provides insights into how we can do that best.

Vivek Wadhwa will meet with community members at an event later in the day.

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It is **FREE** to attend the series but reservations are required and will be made on a first-come, first served basis. DRF and the Chamber are now taking reservations for the Tim Wilson Speaker Series event on Monday, 10/29/12. Reservations then can be made with the series' co-sponsor, the Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce, at (434) 836-6990 or at [chamber@dpchamber.org](mailto:chamber@dpchamber.org).

The mission of the Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce is to serve our members and improve the business environment by providing leadership, products, programs and services which promote the success of our members.

For more information about the Chamber and services and programs they provide, visit [www.dpchamber.org](http://www.dpchamber.org), or contact Chamber President Laurie Moran at 434-836-6990 or email at [lmoran@dpchamber.org](mailto:lmoran@dpchamber.org).

DRF is a catalyst for innovation and an agent for transformation. Understanding that significant community change takes time, DRF invests for the long term in efforts that promise sustained positive impact for the Dan River Region. DRF is committed to activities, programs, and organizations that address the health, education, and well-being of residents of Danville, Pittsylvania County, and Caswell County.

To learn more about DRF, its grant opportunities, the 2012-2013 Speaker Series and partnership opportunities, and Community Read visit the DRF website at [www.drfoonline.org](http://www.drfoonline.org) or contact Communications and Public Relations Director Matt Charles at (434) 799-8969 or [mcharles@drfoonline.org](mailto:mcharles@drfoonline.org).

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