Is RVA Ready?

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Kelli Parmley, Executive Director
Jason Smith, PhD, Evidence-Based Decision Making, Manager
“It’s great that you love dinosaurs, but that won’t make you college and career ready. Paleontology is a hard field to break into.”

BY JOHN SPENCER - CREATIVE COMMONS
Virginia Backdrop

- **Top Jobs Act** - increase college graduation, greater employability, focus on STEM-H
- **Blueprint VA** - prioritize Top Jobs and STEM-H, Grow by Degrees, build on VCCS, align business and K-12 partnerships
- **Four Regional Planning Effort** – Capital Region Collaborative (CRC), Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), The Resource (WIB), and Bridging RVA
- **Virginia Department of Education** – increased requirements for the Standard Diploma starting Fall 2014
- **HB1184** - increase dual enrollment (college credits while in high school)
If our region needs
65,000 additional 2 and 4 year degrees
(55% of our population) by 2030, and
11,000 of those in STEM-H fields,
and living wage opportunities for those with
a high school degree or less are shrinking…..

what about the other 45%?
Regional Educational Attainment

Charles City County
Population 4,153

Chesterfield County
Population 173,965

Goochland County
Population 12,660

Hanover County
Population 53,799

Henrico County
Population 169,936

New Kent County
Population 10,897

Powhatan County
Population 16,589

City of Richmond
Population 108,098

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2012, 5-Year Estimates. Populations given are for Working Age adults, ages 25-64

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Educational Attainment in Working-Age Adults

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2012, 5-Year Estimates
What if we increased regional on-time graduation rates to 90%, 92.5% or 95%?

District A
District B
District C
District D
District E
District F
District G
District H
BRVA Region

= 95% Goal =756 additional graduates per year
= 92.5% Goal =443 additional graduates per year
= 90% Goal =131 additional graduates per year
Three Opportunities

A. **Strengthen Career Exploration** – as early as middle school

B. **Support Career and Technical Education (CTE) 2.0**
   – as a rigorous, relevant, and real-world approach to post-secondary attainment

C. **Create Industry/Sector (e.g. healthcare, finance) Partnerships**
   – identify in-demand, regional career pathways and provide the “real-world” context for CTE 2.0
Recommendation A: Strengthen Career Exploration

- **Regional Career Exploration Portal** - Develop a “portal” accessible to youth and families as early as Middle School.

- **Career counselors** - Advocate for reduced case loads for professional and career counselors to provide sufficient capacity to support career exploration.

- **STEM-H Awareness** - Leverage strength of the Idea Station’s “Science Matters” to promote awareness of regional STEM-H occupations.
Recommendation B: Support CTE 2.0

- **Public Perception Campaign** - leverage strength of the Idea Station, colleges, and business partners to improve public perception of CTE 2.0

- **Contribute to the Education Curriculum** - support access to front-line employee expertise to identify 21st century knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs)

- **Grow Dual Enrollment** - increase the number of teachers certified to teach dual enrollment, improve availability to underserved youth, and improve integration with CTE
Recommendation C: Develop Industry/Sector Specific Partnerships

- **Create Public Awareness Campaign** - Promote the use of comprehensive tools, such as the Virginia Education Wizard, for use by families, counselors, non-profits, etc. to improve career exploration and planning.

- **Develop Regional Career Pathways** - Convene industry partnerships in sectors such as Healthcare, Finance, and Professional/Technical Services to identify at least one high-demand occupation and pilot the development of a regional career pathway.

- **Align Awareness and Work-based Learning** - Utilize sector partnerships to increase awareness of high-demand occupations and efficiently coordinate opportunities to provide youth with work experiences.
What would be different if....

- All of our youth, families, and schools had better information about the Top Jobs RVA?

- Families, youth, educators, and businesses had better information about multiple career pathways?
What would be different if....

- Adults and youth did not see career and technical education as something “other people” do?

- More students graduate high school with college credits and work experience?
Could we begin to see a shift?

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2012, 5-Year Estimates. Populations given are for Working Age adults, ages 25-64.

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What would a wildly successful and “ready” RVA Look like?
Questions?
Appendix: Some Tangible Examples of Action
Potential Regional Activities

• Create Regional Career Academy
  – Examples: Linked Learning Alliance (http://linkedlearning.org/about/)
  – MDRC (http://www.mdrc.org/sites/default/files/full_50.pdf)

• Create Regional STEM-H Academy (potential for MathScience Innovation Center)

• Engage Schools with Project Lead the Way (PLTW) (https://www.pltw.org/)
Potential Regional Activities

- Pilot Regional CTE 2.0 Initiatives (e.g. computer science and information systems)
- Create LinkedIn for Middle Skill Employees
- Submit Regional Grant Proposals