

**DEVELOPING AFFORDABLE PATHWAYS FOR VIRGINIA'S TALENT:
A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN BUSINESS AND EDUCATION**

**2021 VIRGINIA EDUCATION AND
WORKFORCE CONFERENCE**

OCTOBER 20, 2021 | WWW.VACHAMBER.COM

BLUEPRINT VIRGINIA 2030

VACHAMBER FOUNDATION **GROWTH4VA** **VIRGINIA TALENT OPPORTUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

2021 Virginia Education & Workforce Conference
October 20, 2021 | Greater Richmond Convention Center

Current Agenda

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	NETWORKING AND REGISTRATION
9:00 AM – 9:10 AM	<p>WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS Barry DuVal, President & CEO, Virginia Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Alan Witt, CEO Emeritus, PBMares / Dean, Luter School of Business Christopher Newport University and Chair, Virginia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors</p> <p>Ed Baine, President, Dominion Energy Virginia and Co-Chair, Blueprint Virginia 2030</p>
9:10 AM - 9:40 AM	<p>GROWTH4VA CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW <i>Introduced by: Dennis Treacy, Chair, Virginia Business Higher Education Council</i></p> <p>KEYNOTE REMARKS Jennifer Hunter, Senior Vice President, Corporate Citizenship, Altria Client Services</p>
9:40 AM – 10:00 AM	<p>SPECIAL REMARKS: The Honorable Terry McAuliffe, 72nd Governor of Virginia, Democratic Candidate for Governor</p>
10:00 AM – 10:50 AM	<p>PANEL DISCUSSION- Fostering Greater Connectivity Between Higher Education and Employers</p> <p><i>As our economy struggles to recover from the pandemic, business growth in Virginia is impeded by employers' inability to find workers with the right education and training. To remedy identified workforce shortages, business, higher education, and state government must work together to align programming and investments with the Commonwealth's talent needs. We can deepen our competitive edge as the talent state by creating an array of affordable pathways that move students efficiently from learning to earning, retaining them for full-time work in Virginia. This panel will discuss ways to make Virginia the talent-to-opportunity leader for the nation.</i></p>

Introduced by: Peter Blake, Director, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Moderator:

Dr. Dietra Trent, Special Advisor to the President, George Mason University and Co-Chair, Workforce & Education Executive Committee

Panelists:

- **Dr. Makola Abdullah**, President, Virginia State University
- **Cliff Fleet**, President & CEO, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
- **Melissa Goodrich**, Regional Vice President, Human Resources, Sentara
- **Dr. Robert Sandel**, President, Virginia Western Community College

10:50 AM – 11:15 AM

NETWORKING BREAK IN FOYER

SPECIAL REMARKS

Dr. Bill Hazel, Senior Deputy Executive Director, Claude Moore Charitable Foundation

11:15 AM – 11:45 AM

PANEL DISCUSSION- Developing Greater Workforce Resiliency: Lessons Learned from COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of resiliency and flexibility to weather economic hardship and long-term disruptions. This panel will discuss how Virginia can continue to lead on workforce and education related issues through lessons learned during the pandemic.

Moderator:

Keith Hoelzer, Head of Business Banking, Atlantic Union Bank

Panelists:

- **Stephen Moret**, President and CEO, Virginia Economic Development Partnership
- **Dr. Donna Price-Henry**, Chancellor, UVA-Wise
- **Brenda Woodcock**, Richmond Market Chief Nursing Officer, Bon Secours

11:45 AM – 12:05 PM

SPECIAL REMARKS:

Glenn Youngkin, Republican Candidate for Governor

12:05 AM – 12:15 PM

BLUEPRINT VIRGINIA 2030 UPDATE

Barry DuVal, President & CEO, Virginia Chamber of Commerce

SPECIAL REMARKS

Bridget Brown, Director, Workforce Innovations, ICF

12:15 PM – 12:30 PM

NETWORKING BREAK / TRANSITION TO LUNCH

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

VIRGINIA EDUCATION & WORKFORCE LUNCHEON PROGRAM & LEGISLATIVE AWARDS ANNOUNCEMENT

PANEL DISCUSSION- Supporting Affordable Pathways through Work-Based Learning

A recent survey of Virginia graduates revealed that fewer than half of the almost 15,350 respondents had completed one or more internships during their undergraduate experience. More than half of respondents also noted that their internship helped them to receive a job offer post-graduation. For many students, only paid, for-credit internship opportunities are feasible. How to scale up work-based learning opportunities statewide, for the benefit of students, employers, and the Commonwealth, is the focus of this panel.

Moderator:

Victoria Harker, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, TEGNA Inc.

Panelists:

- **Mark Dreyfus**, President, ECPI University
- **Susan Jacobs**, Vice-President of Human Resources, Newport News Shipbuilding
- **Delbert Parks**, Vice President and Site Executive, Micron Technology Virginia
- **Dr. Tim Sands**, President, Virginia Tech

2:00 PM

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