



## Mission

The Workforce and Education Center will develop policy and implement programming to ensure access and equitable pathways to education and workforce development opportunities for all Virginians leading to a well-trained, adaptive workforce for the Commonwealth.

## Vision

The Workforce and Education Center will build meaningful partnerships to better connect and support the business and education communities in developing a robust education-workforce system that establishes Virginia as the best state for talent.

## Current Initiatives & Programming

- Hire Vets Now
- Virginia Talent and Opportunity Partnership (V-TOP)
- LEAD4IT
- K-12 Innovation Challenges

## Future Initiatives and Programming

- Expansion of Apprenticeships to Close Workforce Gaps
- Exploration of Fair Chance Hiring Programming to Support Employers
- Encourage Career Exposure and Exploration for K-12 Students of High Growth, In-demand Industries
- Build Connections for Employers to Ensure a More Inclusive Workforce

## Current Objectives

- Support Transitioning Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses through Professional Development and Career Networking with Dedicated Virginia Businesses
- Increase Opportunities and Access to Paid Internships and Work-Based Learning Experiences, especially for underrepresented populations such as low-income or first-generation students, through the Virginia Talent and Opportunity Partnership (V-TOP)
- Offer Students Opportunities to Collaborate with Industry Partners to Investigate and Solve Real-World Issues Relevant to Business
- Educate Employers on Innovative “Earn & Learn” Workforce Solutions and Credentialing Programs and Assist the New Workforce Agency in Scaling-Up and Expanding Access to these Programs to Support Employer Needs

## Future Objectives

- Support Policies and Programs that Increase Employability, Skills Development and Educational Attainment to Expand the Workforce Applicant Pool through Fair Chance Hiring
- Develop K-12 Programming Focused on Strengthening Career Pathways through Career Exposure and Exploration
- Support Training Programs that Prepare Individuals with Disabilities for the Workforce