



PROGRAM AGENDA

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| 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | NETWORKING & REGISTRATION |
| 9:00 AM – 9:05 AM | WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
Jennifer Siciliano , Chief External Affairs Officer, UVA Health and Chair of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
Brad Hall , President & CEO, Virginia Chamber of Commerce |
| 9:05 AM – 9:30 AM | MORNING KEYNOTE REMARKS
Edmond E. Hughes , Co-Chair, Blueprint Virginia 2035, Virginia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Executive Committee, and Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, HII |
| 9:30 AM – 9:35 AM | REMARKS & PANEL INTRODUCTION
Kirk Cox , President, Virginia Business Higher Education Council and
Cliff Fleet , Chair of the Virginia Business Higher Education Council Board of Directors |
| 9:35 AM – 10:30 AM | PANEL DISCUSSION: Building Virginia’s Talent Advantage: Connecting Classrooms, Careers, and Opportunity
Virginia's future competitiveness depends on a strong, connected talent pipeline. This opening panel brings together leaders from K–12 education, higher education, workforce development, and economic development to discuss strategies for strengthening talent development, expanding opportunity, and ensuring Virginia has the skilled workforce needed to support thriving businesses, communities, and a resilient economy.

MODERATOR: Kirk Cox , President, Virginia Business Higher Education Council
PANELISTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenna Conway, Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction • Dr. David Doré, Chancellor, Virginia Community College System • Scott Fleming, Executive Director, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia • Megan Healy, Chief of Talent and Workforce Strategy, Virginia Economic Development Partnership • Nicole Overlay, Commissioner, Virginia Works |
| 10:30 AM – 10:40 AM | NETWORKING BREAK |

- 10:40 AM – 10:50 AM **EDUCATION & WORKFORCE SPOTLIGHT:**
Jennifer Stevens, President and CEO of Virginia Ed Strategies and
Member, Virginia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- 10:50 AM – 11:35 AM **PANEL DISCUSSION: Before College, Before Careers: Why K-12 Engagement Is a Talent Strategy**
Building tomorrow's workforce begins long before students enter college or the job market. This panel explores how employers are partnering with K–12 schools to spark career awareness, strengthen foundational skills, and create meaningful pathways into high-demand industries. Panelists will share practical examples of successful school-business partnerships and discuss how early engagement can expand opportunity, strengthen local talent pipelines, and help ensure Virginia's future workforce is prepared for the careers of tomorrow.
- MODERATOR: Stewart D. Roberson**, Senior Advisor, State Government Relations, McGuireWoods Consulting LLC and
Chair, Virginia Business K-12 Partnership
- SUGGESTED PANELISTS:**
- **Elithia Cornwell**, Chief People and Strategy Officer, Howard Shockey & Sons, Inc.
 - **Jermail Foster**, Senior Workforce Specialist, Dominion Energy
 - **Michael Guttman**, Strategic Program Manager of Workforce Strategies, Micron Technology
 - **Becky Sawyer**, Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer, Sentara Health
- 11:35 AM – 11:45 AM **EDUCATION & WORKFORCE SPOTLIGHT:**
Dr. Amy Taloma, Director of Workforce Initiatives & VA AHEC, the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority (VHWA)
- 11:45 AM – 11:50 AM **NETWORKING BREAK**
- 11:50 AM – 12:35 PM **PANEL DISCUSSION: Talent by Design: Aligning Curriculum, Credentials, and Careers**
As industries evolve and workforce needs change, employers and higher education institutions are working together to develop students for successful careers. This panel will examine what employer-education collaboration looks like today, including the growing role of internships, skills-based hiring, industry advisory boards, and community college partnerships to build stronger talent pipelines. Panelists will discuss the benefits for students and businesses alike, and what it will take to prepare Virginia's workforce for the jobs of tomorrow.
- MODERATOR: Tammy Finley**, Of Counsel, Gentry Locke
- PANELISTS:**
- **Dr. Fafa L. Baker**, Director of Organizational & Workforce Development, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative
 - **Shani Gist**, Vice President of Culture and Teammate Experience, Atlantic Union Bank
 - **Heather Ramsey**, Director of Talent and Workforce Strategy, North America, Framatome
 - **Jimmy Serrano**, Global Director, Amazon University Talent Acquisition Team (AUTA)

12:35 PM

ADJORN FOR LUNCH

12:40 PM – 1:50 PM

LUNCHEON PROGRAM

12:40 PM: WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Brad Hall, President & CEO, Virginia Chamber of Commerce

12:55 – 1:10 PM: INTERNSHIPS VIRGINIA

“TOP EMPLOYERS FOR INTERNS AWARDS”

Special Presentation of Awards to 3 Statewide Winners by
The Honorable Ghazala F. Hashmi, Lieutenant Governor of the
Commonwealth of Virginia

1:10 – 1:40 PM: LUNCHEON KEYNOTE REMARKS

Aligning Education and Industry Through Work-Based Learning

Stephen Moret, President and CEO, Strada Education Foundation
(includes audience Q&A)

1:40 PM – 1:45 PM

CLOSING REMARKS

Brad Hall, President & CEO, Virginia Chamber of Commerce