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# The Value of a College Education

#### How Should the Success of Higher Education be Measured?

VEI Leadership Challenge May 1, 2015







### Team 2 Members

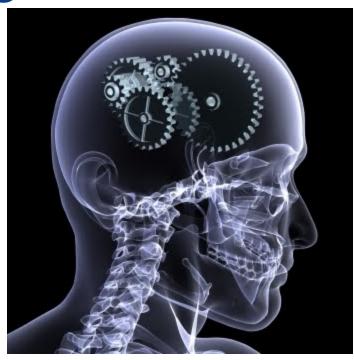
- \* Andy Babish Department of Transportation
- Marcus Elam Department of Corrections
- \* Susan Hancock State Corporation Commission
- \* Angela Harvell Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services
- \* Jason Powell Senate Finance Committee
- \* Brent Sheffler Economic Development Partnership

# To Measure Success, Ask One Big Question



"The value of an education in a liberal arts college is not the learning of many facts but the training of the mind to think something that cannot be learned from textbooks." -Albert Einstein

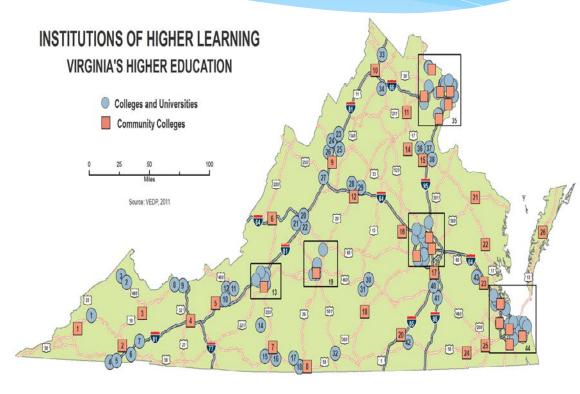
### Does Higher Education Make Cogs or Critical Thinkers?





#### Defining Higher Education Drives Definitions of Success

- Virginia's **public higher education** system is the 12<sup>th</sup> largest in the country
  - \* 15 four-year institutions;
  - \* 23 community colleges with 40 campuses;
  - \* One two-year college;
  - Four regional higher education centers;
  - One institution focused mainly on research and graduate education.
  - \* 410,000 students
  - 46,150 FTE salaried & 10,862 wage employees
  - 25,523 registrations for internet delivered/web based, televised, or twoway video courses.



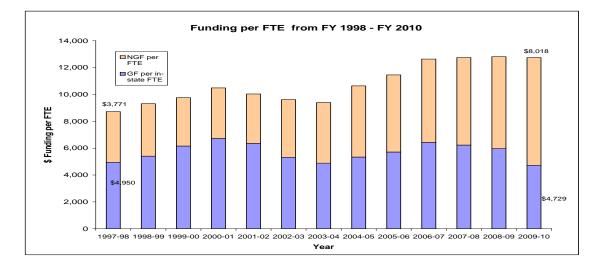
- \* Virginia has **34 private non-profit institutions** of higher education.
  - \* Over 110,000 students.
  - 369,260 registrations for internet delivered/web based or televised courses.
- Virginia has 78 private for-profit institutions of higher education.
  - \* Over 52,000 students (2008-09).

# Competing Expectations of the System Drive Measures of Success

- Attaining some form of Higher
   Education is critical for maintaining
   global market competiveness.
  - Educate tomorrow's leaders.
  - Provide critical competencies valued across all economic sectors.
  - Provide workforce training and retraining.
  - Stimulate economic development opportunities.

These expectations are coupled with increased enrollments and a push from the business community to grow the number of degrees.

- During economic downturns, funding for and outcome measures of higher education are particularly vulnerable.
  - State funding cuts typically offset by tuition increases.
  - Placement rate of recent graduates dropped but have started.



#### Approaches to Balancing Competing Measures of Success Are As Varied As Each Institution

Number of graduates, degrees, or certifications	Publications, patents, research commercialization or firm formation	Academic offerings and alignment with student interests
Placement rate & starting wage	Reducing gaps in attainment for non- traditional students	Reducing post school student debt loads

Employers getting applicants with minimum skills and ready to go to work with little or no additional training

Preparing students to adapt to conditions and jobs that are unknown

These measures can be impacted by externalities ranging from the adequacy of the Pk-12 pipeline to the global economy.

### Virginia's Demographic Changes Will Impact Each Stage of the Pipeline

#### FALL PUBLIC SCHOOL (K-12) ENROLLMENT BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2004 AND 2013

Race /	Fall 2004	% of 2004	Fall 2013	% of 2013	Change, 2004 - 2013		
Ethnicity	Enrollment	Total	Enrollment	Total	Number	Percentage	
Total	1,203,701	100.0%	1,273,210	100.0%	69,509	5.8%	
White, NH	719,264	59.8%	664,369	52.2%	-54,895	-7.6%	
Black, NH	321,303	26.7%	295,942	23.2%	-25,361	-7.9%	
Hispanic	84,305	7.0%	166,269	13.1%	81,964	97.2%	
Asian, NH	58,006	4.8%	80,689	6.3%	22,683	39.1%	
Two or More, NH	N/ A	N/ A	60,072	4.7%	60,072	N/A	
Other	20,823	1.7%	5,869	0.5%	-14,954	-71.8%	
Economically Disadvantaged	351,609	29.2%	510,054	40.1%	158,445	45.1%	$\searrow$
Limited English Proficiency	74,676	6.2%	125,857	9.9%	51,181	68.5%	

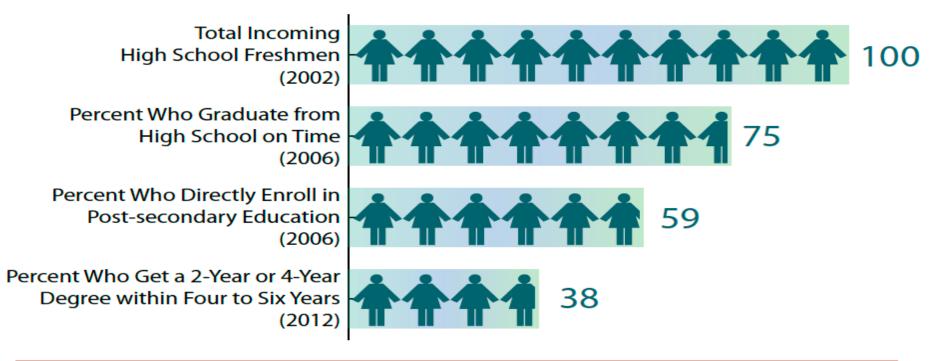
Note: Hispanics can be of any race; NH = non-Hispanic; "Other" for 2004 includes individuals of two or more races, a designation not used in 2004. Source: Virginia Department of Education.

Prepared by the Council on Virginia's Future, 2014.

### Loss of Students Throughout the Pipeline Affects Higher Education Success Measures

#### Educational Attrition in Virginia:

#### The High School - College Pipeline (2012)



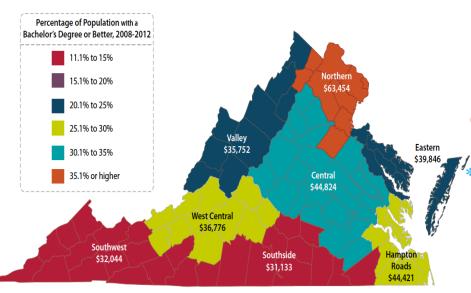
#### DATA NOTES:

Data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV). Data does not reflect a uniform cohort and is not strictly longitudinal.

# Population Shift to Urban Areas is Reflected in Attainment and Income

 Metro regions have both the highest educational attainment rates and personal income averages.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND PERSONAL INCOME, BY VIRGINIA REGION, 2012



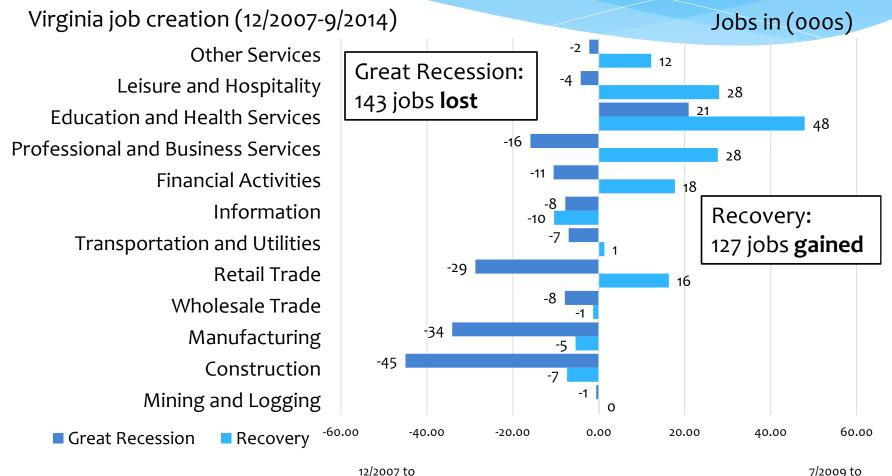
Source: Weldon Cooper Center and ODU Regional Studies Institute, 2014.

Private business perceptions of our workforce capacity vary by region.

Addressing this challenge requires balancing competing regional needs.

Source: Council on Virginia's Future, 2014.

### Replacement Jobs Are Being Created in Sectors Requiring Some Level of Skills Training



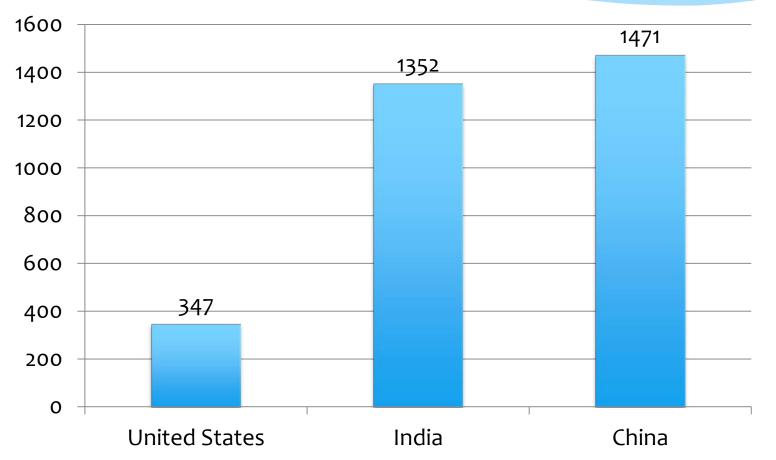
6/2009

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

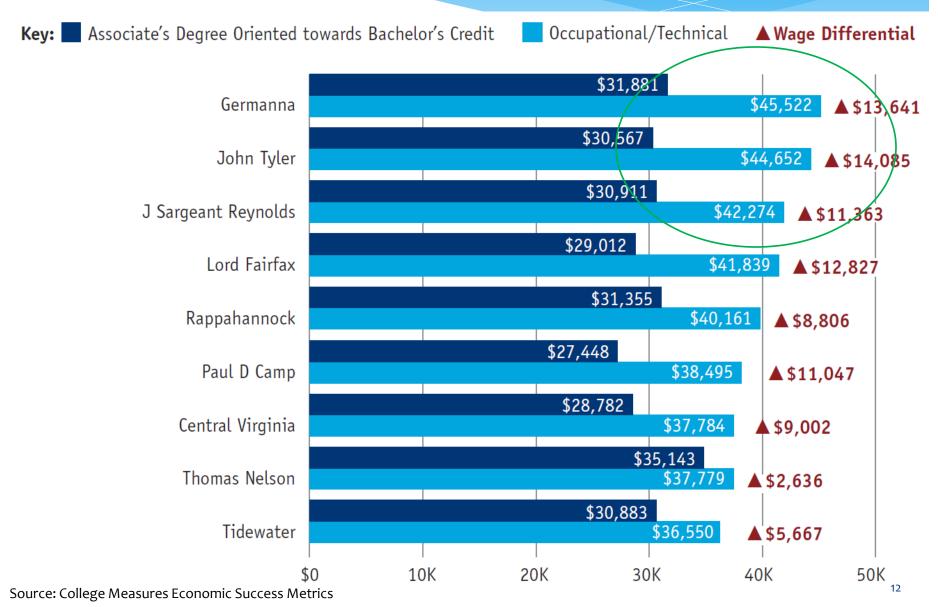
7/2009 to 9/2014

## Why this Matters: Our Competitors Have Four Times as Many People

Projected Population 2025 (in millions)

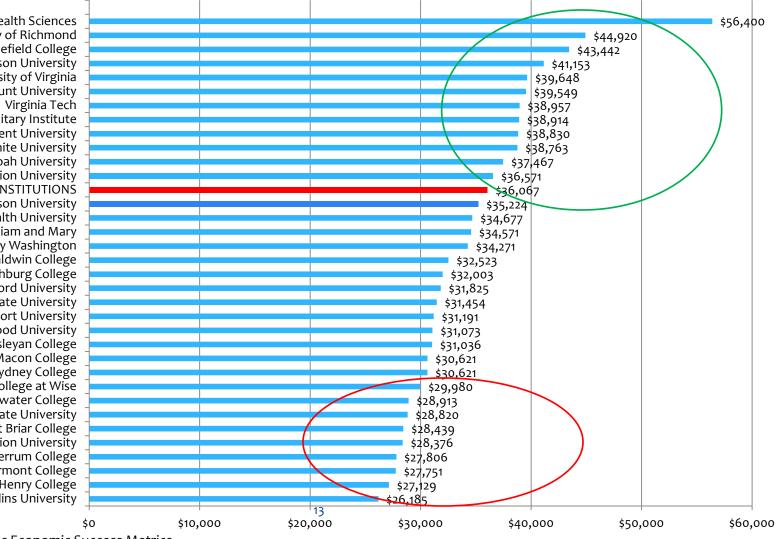


#### Average First Year Wages for Graduates of Two-Year Community Colleges



#### **Average First Year Wages of Bachelor Degree Graduates**

Jefferson College of Health Sciences University of Richmond Bluefield College George Mason University University of Virginia Marymount University Virginia Tech Virginia Military Institute **Regent University** Eastern Mennonite University Shenandoah University Old Dominion University ALL INSTITUTIONS James Madison University Virginia Commonwealth University College of William and Mary University of Mary Washington Mary Baldwin College Lynchburg College Radford University Norfolk State University Christopher Newport University Longwood University Virginia Wesleyan College Randolph-Macon College Hampden-Sydney College University of Virginia's College at Wise **Bridgewater College** Virginia State University Sweet Briar College Virginia Union University Ferrum College Virginia Intermont College Emory and Henry College Hollins University



Source: College Measures Economic Success Metrics

### **Type of Training or Degree Matters**



Source: NSC analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics by State, May 2012 and American Community Survey data, 2012.

### Middle Skills Jobs: 80% require some training or certification

### Demand Varies Despite Higher Education Delivery

Engineering Medical Professional

Science

Nearly 100% fit for Employment Needs Radiation Tech Manufacturing -Machinists Construction HVAC Elevator Maintenance Nursing Assistants History Drama Liberal Arts English Sociology Hospitality Management Linguistics and Foreign Languages Fine and Studio Arts Family and Consumer Sciences

#### JOBS IN DEMAND

Machinist/CNC machinist: \$25.17 General laborer: \$15.34 Engineers: \$32.56 Sales representatives: \$32.44 Welders: \$18.38 Maintenance mechanic: \$20.05 Information technology: \$31.23

Source: 2015 Wisconsin Manufacturing Vitality Index

Source: Washington Post, Sept 29, 2014

### Efforts to Reinvent Higher Education in Order to Maintain Market Relevance are Ongoing

- \* 2011 Virginia Higher Education Opportunity Act
- \* 2015 House Joint Resolution No. 555
- \* 2015 Joint Subcommittee on the Future Competitiveness of Virginia Higher Education
- \* 2015 HB1676 Local school board agreements with institutions of higher education to offer career and technical education curriculum (marketable skills)

- 2015- HB1335 Consultation between Secretary of Education and his agencies; DOE liaison to SCHEV and SBCC liaison to Board of Education
- Workforce Investment Act
- \* VA Workforce Network
   (§ 2.2-2472) Career Pathways
   Workgroup
- SCHEV Summit on Quality & Value in VA's System of Higher Education – June 9, 2015 in Richmond

### Visions and Goals Require Alignment, Success Requires Prioritized Actionable Ideas

The College Board studied the pipeline as a single continuum with the goal of at least 55% of citizens holding a postsecondary degree by 2025 (2012 Progress Report):

- \* Low-Income Preschool
- Middle & High School Counseling
- Dropout Prevention
- Align K-12 standards with international & college admission expectations
- Teacher Quality
- Simplify college admission process
- \* Need-based aid
- Keep college affordable
- Reduce college dropouts
- Provide post-secondary opportunities to adults

The Virginia Chamber of Commerce facilitated development of Blueprint Virginia: A Business Plan for the Commonwealth (Sept. 2013):

- \* STEM-H and soft skills
- \* Question basic assumptions
- \* High quality early childhood education
- Strengthen linkages between classroom and workplace
- \* Financial education
- Community colleges as critical gateway
- Adapt to technological innovations
- \* Data and dissemination
- \* Collaborative partnerships
- \* Apprenticeships
- \* Regional solutions

Milstein Foundation-Miller Center's *Building a Nation of Makers* (June 2014) included six innovative actionable ideas for creating middle class manufacturing jobs:

- Talent Investment Loans
- Upside-Down Degrees
- Skills Census
- Mapping the Manufacturing Supply Chain
- High School "Tech Ed" Certifications
- "Big Trends-Small Firms"

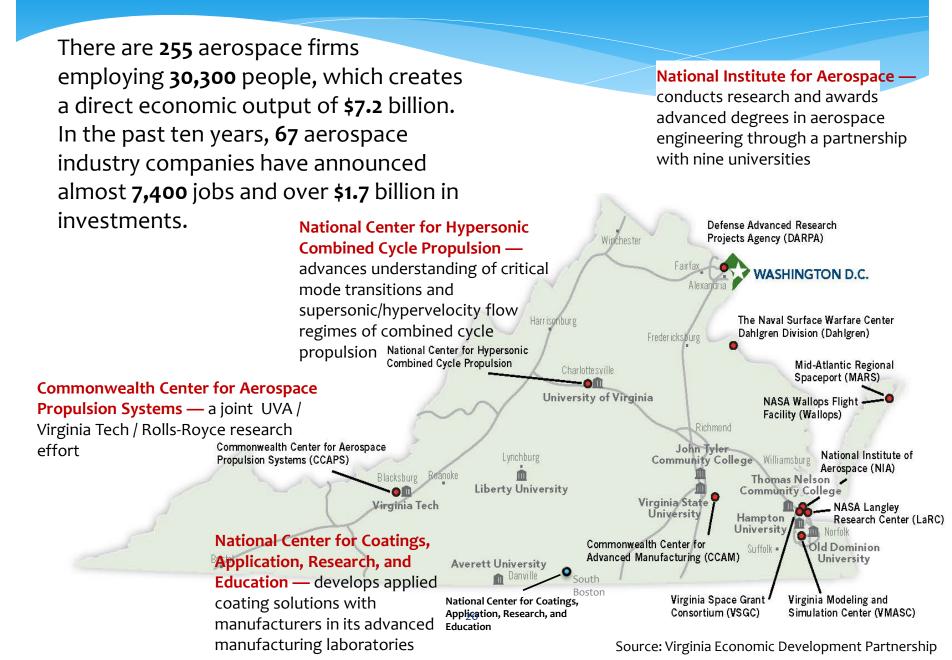
#### What Could We Try?

Front-load Investments for Maximum "Compound Interest"	<ul> <li>Encourage early post-secondary aspiration (and thus preparation) by "seeding" 529 plans for economically disadvantaged pre-school students; brain research on early music instruction.</li> <li>Elevate the teaching profession by recruiting more of the right people (leading organically to more autonomy/prestige/pay) and making the best use of the most effective teachers.</li> </ul>
Common Sense Options to Remove Barriers	<ul> <li>Develop a Higher Ed Ladder program, including stackable credits/credentials, an internship/apprenticeship opportunity matching database, and other components.</li> </ul>
Strategic Realignment and Collaboration	<ul> <li>Funding for early-stage proof-of-concept research for small business formation.</li> <li>Innovation Districts – apply economic gardening strategies to specific regional ties to universities, federal labs, and medical/technology resources.</li> </ul>

Collaboration of All Higher Education Service Delivery Partners Will Be Critical to Long-term Global Competiveness

- \* Employers, Educators, and Policy Makers
- Foster collaboration among players to develop a system that works with employers, training providers and help individuals make informed career choices.
- \* Identify skill gaps and anticipate future skills Virginia workers will need given changing technology and employer needs.
- \* Oversee an integrated, industry-responsive and future oriented system of education and lifelong learning.
- Account for sector specific skill and manpower needs alignment

#### **COLLABORATION AROUND INDUSTRY SECTORS WILL BE CRITICAL**



### **Actions to Move Forward**

- Catalyze Regional Strategies in Talent and Innovation Capabilities.
  - Provide support to map regional capabilities and workforce to use as baseline to drive strategies that ensure sustainable and healthy economies (Planning District Commissions, EDAs, State Partners, Business Leaders)
  - \* Support regional economic development initiatives and organizations that ensures connectivity with business leaders (Various state agencies)

### **Actions to Move Forward**

- Align and Invest in *Talent* Development Coalitions and Capabilities
  - \* Support strategic investments in:
    - \* Non-credit training & certifications VCCS, DOE
    - \* Apprenticeships DOLI
    - Distributed education PRODUCED in Virginia (UVA);
       Commonwealth Graduate Engineering program (VT, UVA, VCU, GMU, ODU)
    - \* Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund
  - Assess the impact of a Virginia Talent Investment Loan Program (VSBFA)

# Three Things Educators May Wish to Consider

- Less exclusionary messaging on STEM—it really is never too late, even if you take Algebra in your thirties.
- Discard the phrase "mid-skill;" there's nothing mid-skill about welding a \$5 billion pipeline, operating advanced manufacturing equipment, restoring power after a hurricane, or constructing a modern building.
- Recognize that employers are more focused on what an applicant can do than what degree they hold.
  - By the time you get a new degree program set up for the hot field of the moment it may well have peaked already.

# Bottom Line: Know What You Do and Do It Well

- \* We need graduates with skills and competencies valued across **all** workplaces.
  - \* Critical Thinking
  - \* Communication
  - Collaboration
  - \* Creativity
  - \* Innovation
- Provide a set of technical expertise that are relevant to targeted high growth industries.