



Virginia Board of Workforce Development TALKING POINTS

We envision a Virginia where every business has access to a qualified, job-ready workforce and every Virginian has the skills they need to connect with meaningful employment and advance in their career.

Workforce Development is critical to the strength of the New Virginia Economy.

- In today's economy, a well-trained, prepared and capable workforce is the most important element for new and existing employers.
- The VBWD is focused on identifying current and future workforce needs of Virginia businesses, as well as related training and credentialing requirements.
- Virginia's economy is expanding. Since 2010, the trough of the recession, Virginia's economy has added 209,000 jobs and now reflects the highest level of employment in Virginia's history. In order to sustain that level of growth, Virginia needs all its workforce system resources engaged and ready.
- Virginia's future workforce needs are great. It is projected that half a million new jobs will be created in Virginia by 2022. In addition, Virginia businesses will need to fill another 930,000, primarily due to retirements. The pipeline for the workforce of the future must be built today.

Virginia is leading the nation in turning our Workforce Development System into one that is more focused on the needs of employers.

- The VBWD is focused on connecting business needs to all workforce system programs through continuous review of program outcomes and regular evaluation of resource alignment.
- From K-12 to higher education to workforce training; all elements of the workforce system are focused on developing a talent pipeline.
- 24 programs across 8 state agencies have shared values, shared ownership and shared benefit of a system that will operate at the speed of business.

Filling the skills gap is a top priority for the state of Virginia.

- In less than a decade, Virginia will need to replace over 930,000 retiring workers and will create another 500,000 new jobs.
- About 50 to 65% of those jobs will be specialized and skilled jobs at the technician level.
- To qualify for these jobs generally means having more than a high school diploma, but less than a baccalaureate degree. These are jobs that are accessible with the right industry certifications, licenses, apprentice credentials or postsecondary level occupational certificates and two year degrees.
- We call these workforce credentials or Credentials That Count because they hold demonstrated value for job seekers and for the Virginia's businesses.
- Governor McAuliffe made increasing by 50,000 the number of workforce credentials attained by Virginians the top priority for Virginia's workforce system.



- The Governor has also established a long-term goal for Virginians to attain nearly half a million workforce credentials by 2030, which would make Virginia the #1 state in the U.S. for the percentage of its adult population earning a workforce credential.