



Governor's Council on Youth Entrepreneurship

Report December 1, 2015

Governor McAuliffe has made entrepreneurship and innovation one of five central pillars of his New Virginia Economy plan to build a more diversified workforce and economy that is less dependent on federal spending. As we work to promote continued economic growth and prosperity for all Virginians, it is essential that we make Virginia the best state in the nation to start a business. In particular, we must focus our efforts on Virginia's young people, who are the foundation of our economic strength. Virginia is home to some of the best colleges, universities, and community colleges in the world. Young people from across the nation and the globe come to Virginia each year to attend our exceptional institutions, which contribute significantly to our talent pipeline. Our education system is the backbone of our workforce, and by investing in both them and our young people, we can provide them with the tools they need to thrive in the 21st century economy.

In classrooms and dorms across the Commonwealth, our young people are already building new ventures, dreaming new ideas, and developing the businesses that will transform our future. We have achieved great success in supporting young entrepreneurs. The Commonwealth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Measurement System (IEMS) recently demonstrated that university-based entrepreneurial activity, especially those tied to commercialization, has increased in Virginia in recent years. University licensing, university startups, and the overall university environment for innovation have improved in the latest IEMS statistics. Our colleges and universities are a critical asset for supporting a new Virginia economy centered on entrepreneurship, innovation, and small business growth.

However, we also have a great opportunity for growth and improvement in this field. Our universities and colleges have the chance to leverage their talents to build stronger innovation ecosystems on their campuses, through increased research and commercialization, expanded curriculum, investment in collaborative and makerspaces, and supporting entrepreneurial activity. These steps can make our education system more competitive in attracting the world's top talent, and in promoting Virginia as the national hub for innovation on college campuses. This initial report of the Governor's Council on Youth Entrepreneurship serves as a baseline to demonstrate the programs and curricula offered at Virginia's public four-

year colleges and universities. The Council will continue to work with leaders in education, business, and the startup communities to share and centralize information, such as this report, so all ecosystems can collaborate statewide. In future reports, the Council will continue to map the entrepreneurial assets and resources in Virginia, including at other institutions of higher education and the K – 12 system, and make recommendations on how we can strengthen the innovation ecosystem across the Commonwealth.

Christopher Newport University

Christopher Newport University runs a civic engagement and social entrepreneurship minor, under its program of interdisciplinary studies.

<http://cnu.edu/interdisciplinary/cese/>

College of William and Mary

William & Mary's Mason School of Business operates several programs in entrepreneurship and innovation, including the Alan B. Miller Entrepreneurship Center, a central hub for educational programs, mentoring, business support, and incubation for student and community startups. It works with business groups in the Hampton Roads region to promote entrepreneurship to the surrounding community. The Mason School also runs an entrepreneurship concentration for undergraduate students.

<http://mason.wm.edu/entrepreneurship/index.php>

George Mason University

George Mason's Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation serves as a campus-wide hub for entrepreneurship education, programming, and startup activity. It serves undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines, faculty and staff, the surrounding community, and the business community. Among its programs include an undergraduate entrepreneurship minor, and the Mason Innovation Lab, an incubator space on campus that provides a physical location for collaboration, mentorship, and building.

<http://business.gmu.edu/innovation/>

The School of Public Policy also houses the Center for Entrepreneurship and Public Policy, an education and research-based center that explores the role of entrepreneurship in the public sector.

<http://cepp.gmu.edu/>

James Madison University

James Madison's Center for Entrepreneurship is a campus-wide entrepreneurship hub for education, programs, and services to support venture creation, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The Center offers an undergraduate concentration in Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, and is currently developing an entrepreneurship minor. The Center also runs a series of mentoring programs, incubators, accelerators, speaker series, and research activities to promote the importance of entrepreneurship.

<http://www.jmu.edu/cob/centers/center-for-entrepreneurship/index.shtml>

Longwood University

Longwood's Longwood University Extended (LUx) program offers continuing education, professional studies, and entrepreneurial support to community members. LUx offers an entrepreneurship boot camp to members of the surrounding community as a way to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the local economy. It also provides 18 week entrepreneurship classes for high school students to expose them to venture creation and entrepreneurship.

<http://www.longwood.edu/graduatestudies/lux.htm>

Norfolk State University

Norfolk State's Ernest M. Hodge Institute for Entrepreneurship offers programs and resources to support students, alumni, and community members in their efforts to start businesses or commercialize technologies and ideas. Its educational programs promote innovation and entrepreneurship across campus. In addition, the School of Business offers entrepreneurship as one of its six tracks of study.

<https://www.nsu.edu/business/hodge-institute/index>

Old Dominion University

Old Dominion's Strome Entrepreneurial Center serves as the campus-wide hub for innovation and entrepreneurship. It offers students a physical space to build, collaborate, and seek mentorship. The Center also offers a series of programs and services to assist students and members of the university community through the life cycle of venture creation, starting a business, raising capital, finding customers, and launching a business. It seeks to create a stronger entrepreneurial culture on campus and in the surrounding community.

<https://www.odu.edu/impact/entrepreneurship>

Radford University

Within Radford's College of Business and Economics, the Department of Management offers an undergraduate concentration in entrepreneurship, taking students through the mechanics of starting, managing, and growing their own business, as well as offering an entrepreneurship minor.

<http://www.radford.edu/content/cobe/home/academic-departments/management/academics/entrepreneurship.html>

University of Mary Washington

Mary Washington does not offer any specific entrepreneurship programs. However, their Center for Economic Development partners with business, government, and education to promote increased awareness of entrepreneurship as a path to economic growth and success. It runs programs and offers resources for community members to learn about business creation and helps individuals start and grow their own businesses.

<http://economicdevelopment.umw.edu/>

University of Virginia

The University of Virginia operates multiple different centers and programs designed to provide students and community members with services and resources for entrepreneurship and innovation. The McIntire School of Commerce, the undergraduate business school, offers an entrepreneurship track as well as an entrepreneurship minor. Within the McIntire School, the university operates the Galant Center for Entrepreneurship, which develops and supports curriculum, programming, competitions, and student organizations in order to promote entrepreneurial activity across the campus and the larger community.

<https://www.commerce.virginia.edu/entrepreneurship>

The Darden School of Business, the graduate business school, offers an entrepreneurship concentration for MBA students.

<http://www.darden.virginia.edu/mba/entrepreneurship/>

In addition, the Darden School manages the iLab, a collaborative space for students and local community members to collaborate, seek mentorship, and build new ventures.

<http://www.ilabatuva.org/>

University of Virginia's College at Wise

The University of Virginia's College at Wise's Office of Economic Development & Engagement organizes entrepreneurship programs, including My Southwest Virginia Opportunity, that connect students to local business leaders and promote small business development opportunities across the campus and the region.

<http://www.uvawise.edu/uva-wise/administration-services/finance-administration/office-economic-development/>

Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Commonwealth University currently operates a host of centers, programs, and events that offer students comprehensive support in entrepreneurship education and innovation. They have established VCU Squared (Venture Creation University), a campus-wide program to support entrepreneurial faculty, staff and students. They seek to coordinate entrepreneurial activities across the campus. As one of their projects, they established a fund to provide small seed investment to student companies.

<http://www.squared.vcu.edu/>

The Da Vinci Center, an interdisciplinary project of the Schools of Arts, Business, Engineering, and College of Humanities and Science, currently offers academic programs in entrepreneurship including a venture creation certificate for all undergraduate students, a Master of Product Innovation, a certificate in product innovation for undergraduate students, and the Innovate Living-Learning Program, which allows students to practice entrepreneurship in both a classroom and residential environment while offering an innovation/entrepreneurship certificate.

<http://www.davincicenter.vcu.edu/>

VCU's Founders Corner provides students with a physical coworking space that facilitates collaboration and mentorship for student ventures and companies. The VCU School of Arts runs a Creative Entrepreneurship program, which encourages creative students to combine business skills to build new ideas and ventures. As part of the program, they operate the VCU Arts Creative Disruption Lab, which allows students to build and work on their projects.

<http://arts.vcu.edu/entrepreneurship/>

The VCU School of Business also offers an entrepreneurship track for their major students.

<http://business.vcu.edu/undergraduate-studies/prospective-students/majors-and-minors/>

Virginia Military Institute

Virginia Military Institute runs the Engineering Entrepreneurship Initiative (EEI), which provides students the opportunity to write business plans for patented intellectual property, while promoting entrepreneurship and innovation on campus.

<http://www.vmi.edu/Content.aspx?id=20079>

VMI also operates an Entrepreneurship Club within the Economics & Business program, which provides students with programming, competitions, and support towards business creation.

<http://www.vmi.edu/Content.aspx?id=10737431454>

Virginia State University

Virginia State University has positioned entrepreneurship as one of its five core priorities. The VSU Center for Entrepreneurship provides entrepreneurial education, programs, and services to support innovators both in the university community and the surrounding community. Affiliated with the Reginald F. Lewis College of Business, the Center is currently developing an entrepreneurship minor, as well as a certificate program in entrepreneurship. In addition to supporting student entrepreneurs, the Center is also working to assist military and veteran entrepreneurs in the surrounding community.

<http://www.vsuentrepreneurship.com/>

The College of Engineering and Technology operates a maker space on campus, and integrates entrepreneurial goals into its curriculum. In particular, its mechanical engineering programs are designed to promote connections between innovation, manufacturing, and technology to provide students with the skills for the 21st century workforce.

<http://www.cet.vsu.edu/index.php>

Through the College of Agriculture, VSU also participates in a rural entrepreneurship program under the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VSU & VT) to support innovation and entrepreneurship for rural and agricultural communities.

<http://www.agriculture.vsu.edu/special-programs/cooperative-extension/rural-entrepreneurship.php>

Virginia Tech

The Apex Systems Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is a campus-wide hub for entrepreneurship and innovation. They provide support services to student entrepreneurs, including mentorship, pitch training, and assistance with research, commercialization, and intellectual property. Affiliated with the Center is the Innovate Living-Learning community,

which allows students to blend entrepreneurial activities in a residential environment. The Center and the Innovate community both provide students with collaborative and maker spaces (the inVenTs studio) where they can create, build, seek mentorship, and launch new products and ventures.

<http://www.apexcie.vt.edu/>

The Pamplin School of Business operates a minor in entrepreneurship and new venture growth, which is available to all undergraduate students.

<http://www.pamplin.vt.edu/>

The College of Engineering operates the VT Engineering Entrepreneurship program, which is committed to creating a network of educational opportunities and entrepreneurial activities for engineering students.

<https://www.eng.vt.edu/engr-eship>

VT Knowledge Works, a subsidiary of the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, provides business launch support and training for entrepreneurs and innovators who are looking to start a business or operate a business. It works with the business community locally, across Virginia, and the world, to strengthen the business and innovation ecosystem in the broader Virginia Tech and Blacksburg community. Through curriculum and a variety of business resources, it stimulates economic growth regionally.

<http://www.vtknowledgeworks.com/>

	Entrepreneurship track or concentration (within a major)	Entrepreneurship minor	Entrepreneurship courses offered	Entrepreneurial programs engage community	Physical space for collaboration or makerspace
CNU			X	X	
William & Mary	X		X	X	X
GMU		X	X	X	X
JMU		X (developing)	X	X	X
Longwood			X	X	
NSU	X		X	X	X

ODU			X	X	X
Radford	X	X	X	X	
UMW			X	X	
UVA	X	X	X	X	X
UVA-Wise			X	X	
VCU	X	X	X	X	X
VMI			X	X	
VSU		X (developing)	X	X	X
Virginia Tech	X	X	X	X	X

This report represents the Council’s initial assessment of the entrepreneurial programs, services, and resources offered at Virginia’s four-year public colleges and universities. The Council will continue to work with institutions of higher education to ensure that all entrepreneurial programs are accurately and fully presented as part of the Council’s reports. The Council will work with institutions to encourage the expansion and advancement of curricula, spaces, programming, resources, and academic credit provided to support entrepreneurial activity on college campuses. The next report of the Council, which will include a series of recommendations for the Governor, will be released no later than December 1, 2016.