



ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2025



PREPARED BY

**CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
VIRGINIA TECH.

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Growth & Diversification Plan	2
Summary of Projects	4
Regional Collaboration & Partner Support	5
Full Partner List	6
Outcomes & Impact	9
Communication & Outreach	11
Project Pipeline	13
Council Members	14
Support Organization	15

INTRODUCTION

The Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement serves as the support organization for GO Virginia Region 2, supporting projects that result in job creation and economic growth across Roanoke-Alleghany, Greater Lynchburg, and New River Valley localities.

Region 2 has identified four industry sectors as having the greatest potential for sustainable, scalable growth. These sectors have strong foundations in the region with established companies, research assets, and demonstrated growth in high-paying jobs.

REGION 2 TARGET INDUSTRY SECTORS

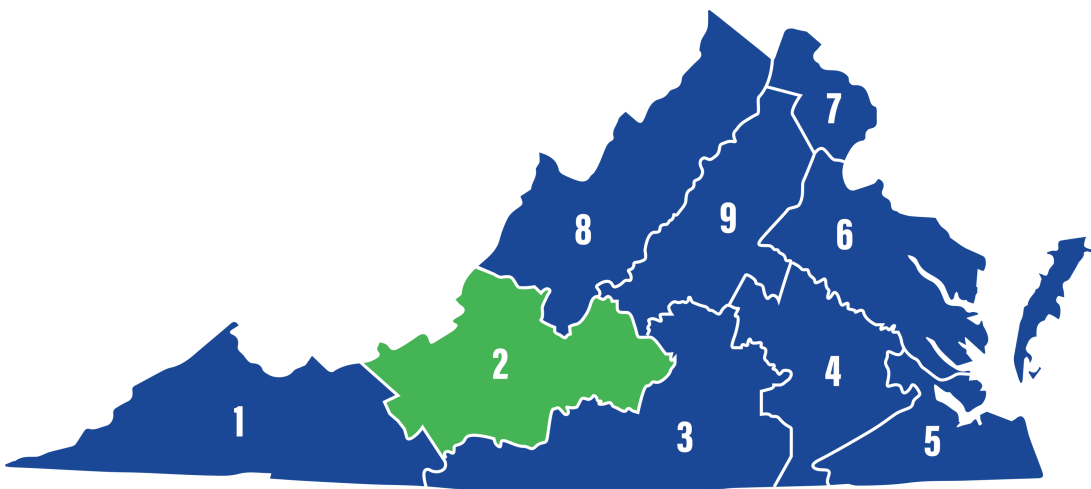
LIFE SCIENCES & BIOTECHNOLOGY

IT, ENGINEERING SERVICES, & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

MATERIALS & MACHINERY MANUFACTURING

TRANSPORTATION & AUTONOMY MANUFACTURING

18 projects were active throughout fiscal year 2025, supporting workforce, entrepreneurship, site development, and scale-up for companies across all four target industry sectors. Region 2 hosted several collaborative workshops, celebratory events, and outreach and information sessions. Staff conducted research and developed comprehensive reports to strategically plan and prioritize future projects including the Talent Pathways Initiative Report, the Talent Evaluation Report, and the 2025 Growth & Diversification Plan. This report serves as a record and celebration of the accomplishments, activities, partnerships, and outcomes of GO Virginia Region 2 in fiscal year 2025.



Region 2 includes the cities of Covington, Lynchburg, Radford, Roanoke, and Salem; and the counties of Alleghany, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Roanoke.

GROWTH & DIVERSIFICATION PLAN

Region 2 projects supported the goals and priorities of the 2023 Growth & Diversification plan through all four GO Virginia investment strategies and encompass all four Region 2 priority industry clusters throughout FY25

GOVA Investment Strategies:

Workforce Development
Site Development &
Infrastructure
Start Up Ecosystem
Cluster Scale Up

Ten projects supported Region 2's goals for workforce development

Examples:

- **Lynchburg Manufacturing Workforce Development Strategy** - Develop clear pathways from entry through senior-level employment to illustrate a lifetime of career opportunities in the region
- **Industry 4.0 for the ACE Workforce** - Prioritize upskilling programs in electrification and automation
- **Educating Engineers Region 2 Workforce** - Implement talent retention and attraction programs centered on local universities and regions
- **Region 2 Talent Pathways Initiative** - Identify, implement, and support innovative strategies for worker retention
- **Developing IT and Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline** - Increase technical, engineering, and industry-driven training among in-demand occupations

Four projects supported Region 2's goals toward supporting the start-up ecosystem

Examples :

- **Lynchburg Center for Entrepreneurship (C.Entr)** - Identify cluster needs among SBIR Phase I and II recipients in the region.
- **Project VITAL** - Develop entrepreneur-in-residence and investment seminar programs for life sciences to grow and attract knowledge and expertise in the region

Three projects supported Region 2's goals for cluster scale-up

Examples:

- **Project VITAL**
 - Streamline methods of commercializing university intellectual property
 - Catalyze technology commercialization and adoption among cluster businesses
 - Promote better regional and national marketing for the region's life science and biotechnology cluster identity
- **GMP Clean** - Identify and implement programming that reduces the cost of entry for beginning life science businesses
- **New River Valley Materials and Machinery Cluster Scale Up**
 - Develop and market a cluster identity
 - Strengthen and diversify supply chain to mitigate business cycle defects

One project supported Region 2's goals toward site development and infrastructure:

- **Falling Branch Corporate Park Phase II** - Identify more developable sites and conduct more site readiness planning, grading, and development

GROWTH & DIVERSIFICATION PLAN CONTINUED

2025 PLAN UPDATE

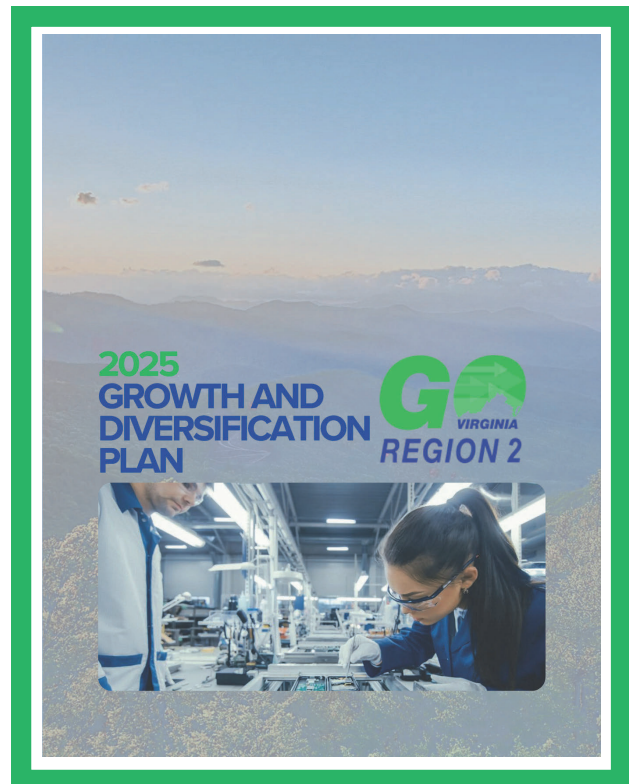
In late 2024, Region 2 staff began work on the 2025 update to our region's Growth & Diversification Plan. Dr. Sarah Lyon-Hill, Director of Research at the Virginia Tech Center for Economic & Community Engagement, led the strategic plan.

This process began with a situational analysis of priority industry clusters paired with a skills gap assessment to evaluate workforce alignment. Strategic plans from regional partners were also reviewed to ensure alignment and coordinated impact.

To ground the secondary data analysis, the findings were presented at public meetings for each target industry across the region. Stakeholders shared feedback on how the program has served their needs, where gaps remain, and what future priorities would strengthen cluster growth. This feedback directly informed the development of sector-specific strategies.

At the request of our council, Dr. Lyon-Hill also assessed the impact of the program in our region. A public, anonymous survey assessed economic performance since the launch of GO Virginia, highlighting shifts and persistent challenges affecting target clusters.

Site research and evaluation were conducted in partnership with regional economic development organizations. Virginia Economic Development Partnership's Virginia Scan database was reviewed to ensure an accurate, current inventory of sites and buildings. Complementing this work, industry literature was reviewed to identify infrastructure needs unique to each cluster, ranging from utilities and broadband access to transportation and workforce training capacity. These analyses informed both immediate site priorities and long-term strategies to enhance regional competitiveness.



SUMMARY OF PROJECTS

APPROVED IN FY25

GMP Clean | Fralin Biomedical Research Institute

Participating Localities: Roanoke City and Montgomery County

GO Virginia Funds	Locality Match	Non-Locality Match	Other Leverage
\$100,000	\$30,000	\$100,000	\$75,500

The Fralin Biomedical Research Institute is addressing the need for cleanroom space through planning activities that survey regional and statewide demand and is implementing a pilot cleanroom at the institute. This pilot facility tests and promotes a state-of-the-art modular cleanroom model and is already used by three local startup companies to manufacture biomedicines.

Outcomes & Deliverables: 3 businesses served; complete pilot cleanroom, an inventory and needs assessment for future cleanroom space and business plans for cleanroom operations.

GO TEC Launch in Region 2 | Montgomery County Public Schools

Participating Localities: Radford City & Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Roanoke County

GO Virginia Funds	Locality Match	Non-Locality Match	Other Leverage
\$994,212.64	\$518,956.20	-	-

Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers (GO TEC) is launching in Region 2, starting with New River Valley and Roanoke County schools, to give students hands-on experience in high-demand fields through partnerships with education and industry. The program introduces middle schoolers to career pathways in precision machining, welding, IT/cybersecurity, robotics, automation, mechatronics, and advanced materials.

Outcomes: 1 Program implemented, 1136 People Trained

New River Valley Site Advancement Strategy | New River Valley Regional Commission

Participating Localities: Radford City and Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski County

GO Virginia Funds	Locality Match	Non-Locality Match	Other Leverage
\$94,400	\$108,479	-	-

The NRV Regional Commission leads this planning project in partnership with Onward NRV. This project will include updating and expanding upon the 2019 Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) assessment by evaluating industrial sites across five New River Valley localities. Infrastructure and site improvements, land ownership changes, and shifting market conditions have impacted site readiness, making an updated assessment necessary. This project will identify infrastructure gaps, environmental constraints, and site development needs, providing a clear path for advancing sites through the VBRSP tiers.

Deliverables: Updated Site Inventory Reports for each site, Roadmap Report for elevating sites on the VBRSP site readiness scale, and a Site Selection Investment Report.

REGIONAL COLLABORATION & PARTNER SUPPORT

Project subgrantees and partners from private-sector, education, and local government collaborated over the past year to deliver programming that strengthened regional connectivity, advanced our target industries, and supported the creation of higher-wage jobs. Some specific examples are listed below, followed by the full list of partners who were engaged in FY25 active projects.

Collaborative Work:

The Roanoke-Blacksburg Innovation Alliance, lead organization for **Project VITAL** and **Strengthening Entrepreneurs' Impact (SEI)**, exemplifies the collaborative spirit central to GO Virginia. Project VITAL brings together multiple agencies to advance Virginia's leadership in bioscience innovation, job creation, and economic growth by leveraging shared expertise and resources. Key partners include Carilion Clinic and the Human Innovation Lab, Virginia Tech Link, License, Launch, Virginia Western Community College, and the City of Roanoke Biotech initiative.

Through SEI, the RAMP program partners with the Fralin Biomedical Institute at Virginia Tech Carilion, Virginia Tech, the Virginia Tech Foundation, the Virginia Innovation Commercialization Assistance Program, and the cities of Roanoke and Salem, and Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Roanoke counties. Together, these collaborations strengthen entrepreneurship in life sciences, biotechnology, and emerging technologies while expanding access to seasoned mentors.

The Lynchburg Region Business Alliance's planning project, **Manufacturing Workforce Strategy Development for the Lynchburg Region**, demonstrated consistent collaboration through its steering committee and planning grant activities. Strong industry engagement, a priority of the GO Virginia program, reinforced the project's value. Continued partnership with Central Region Virginia Career Works showed strong regional alignment and eliminated duplicative efforts. Companies such as Aerofin, BWX Technologies, Framatome, Sonny Merryman, and Southern Air contributed to the development of the workforce strategy and provided facility tours for local school districts, which also partnered by participating in the inaugural Educator Workforce Academy in summer 2024.

The New River Valley Materials & Machinery Cluster Scale-Up planning project, led by the New River Valley Regional Commission, united regional partners to create a 10-year roadmap with identified implementation projects designed to leverage the region's advanced materials and additive manufacturing (AM2) strengths and position it as a global leader in AM2 solutions. Key collaborators included Onward New River Valley, the New River|Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board, regional manufacturers such as Meld/Areoprobe Corporation and Hollingsworth & Vose, and educators from Montgomery County Public Schools and Virginia Tech. Through all-hands meetings and focused workgroups, the consortium developed creative strategies and built strong momentum for implementation.

FULL PARTNER LIST

The full partner list is compiled from grantee self-reports. Projects reported a total of 301 partners over the past year

Key

Partnered with two grants.
Partnered with three grants.
Partnered with four or more grants.

2C Innovation Commons (Crown Industry)	Floyd County	Pulaski County Career & Technical Education
757 Collab	Foster Fuels	Qentoros
Academy Center of the Arts	Fralin Biomedical Research Institute	Quality Coffee Company
Acohmal	Framatome	Quantum Leap Research
ACS	Franklin County	R.L. Johnston Inc
Aerofin	Franklin County Economic Development	R2M Advisory
Aeroprobe & MELD	Franklin County Public Schools	Radford City
Alleghany County	Free Clinic	Radford High School Career & Technical Education
Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation	Friendship Retirement Community	Radford University
Alleghany Highlands Public Schools	Frito Lay	Radically Rural Biotech - Hannah Grimes Center
Altec	Gefertec	RAMP Accelerator
Amazon	GENEDGE	Randolph College
Amazon Web Services	General Dynamics	Region 2 Internship Collaborative
AMG	George Mason University	Renaissance Lighting and Metal Furniture
Amherst County Public Schools	Georgia Pacific	Rhenus Automotive Group
Amtek	Giles County	Roanoke Blacksburg Technology Council
Appomattox Christian Academy	Global Metal Finishing	Roanoke City
Appomattox County	Goodwill Industries of the Valleys	Roanoke City Economic Development
Appomattox County Public Schools	Habitat for Humanity	Roanoke City Public Schools
Arcuem	Hammond-Mitchell, Inc.	Roanoke City Sheriff's Office
Arkay	Hanwha Azdel	Roanoke College
Assa Abloy / Medeco	HII Mission Technologies	Roanoke County
Atlantic Compressors	Hollingsworth & Vose	Roanoke County Economic Development
Atlantic Union Bank	Homestead Creamery	Roanoke County Public Schools
Bank of the James	HUB Corporation	Roanoke Regional Airport Commission
Banker Steel	HumanKind Early Head Start	Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce
Beacon of Hope	Impact Consulting LLC	Roanoke Regional Partnership
Bedford County Economic Development	Inmotion	Roanoke Valley Resource Authority
Bedford County Public Schools	Innerspec	Roanoke-Blacksburg Innovation Alliance
Belvac	Innovate Lynchburg	ROCS Grad Staffing
BGDC Distribution	Innovation Commercialization Assistance Program (ICAP)	Salem City

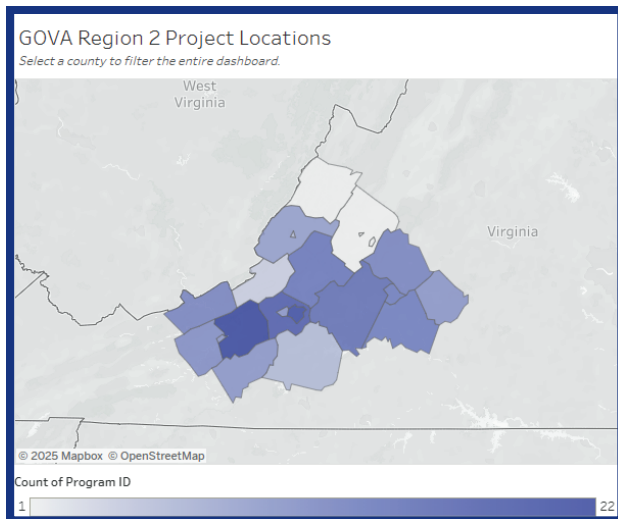
Big Brothers Big Sisters	Innovative Wireless Technologies	Salem City Economic Development
Blacks in Technology Council	Inorganic Ventures	Salem City Public Schools
Blue Ridge Optics	Institute for Advanced Learning and Research	Select Bank
Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers	Integer	Sentry
Boeing	IperionX	SERCAP
Bold Financial Services	Iron Fish	Share Greater Lynchburg
Botetourt County	IRON Lives	Silverdraft
Botetourt County Economic Development	IVO Ltd.	Skyphos Industries
Botetourt County Public Schools	Jamerson-Lewis Construction	Sonny Merryman
Branch Group	Johnstone Lab	Southern Air
Brown Edwards	Jubilee Family Development Center	Southern Virginia Regional Alliance
Build Smart Institute	KBS Analytics	SOVA Innovation Hub
Bullish	KNDS Machining	Spark Innovation Center
BWX Technologies	Kollmorgen	Spectrum Brands
Caerus Ventures	L3Harris	Stik-Pak Solutions
Cairina	Launch CLT	STRATA 9
Campbell County Economic Development	Lawrence Transportation	Strokes of Genius
Campbell County Public Schools	Liberty University	Sweet Briar College
Campbell Univeristy	Lionberger	TechLabs
Cardinal Glass	Longwood SEED Center	TechOpp Consulting, Inc
Carilion Clinic	Longwood University	The Boeing Company
Carilion Clinic Biodesign Program at Virginia Tech	Lynchburg City	The Bridge Institute
Carilion Clinic Innovation	Lynchburg City Schools	The VR Center
Carilion Clinic Patient Transport	Lynchburg Fire Department	Tiny Cargo Company
Carter Machinery	Lynchburg Grows	TORC Robotics
Centra	Lynchburg Office of Economic Development & Tourism	Town of Christiansburg
Centra College of Nursing	Lynchburg Public Works	Town of Vinton
Central Virginia Community College	Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance	Twisted Pair Technologies
Central Virginia Manufacturing	Mack Trucks	United Way of Roanoke Valley
Central Virginia Planning District Commission	Makowski Lab	University of Lynchburg
Central Virginia Woodworkers Guild	Marvin Windows & Doors	VA Tech Department of Materials Science & Engineering
CHIP of Roanoke Valley	McAirlaid's	Vector Space
Christie Wills	Medeco	VEDP Manufacturing Sector Team
Cloudfit Software Development	MELD PrintWorks	Virginia Community Development Financial Institution Coalition
CO.STARTERS	Metalsa	Virginia Bio

Commonwealth Cyber Initiative Southwest Virginia	Method Sense	Virginia Career Works
Consensus Realty	Micro Harmonics Corporation	Virginia Career Works - Central Region
Conserva Irrigation	Moneta Dentistry	Virginia Career Works - Greater Roanoke Region
Corning	Montgomery County	Virginia Career Works - New River Mount Rogers Region
Council of Community Services	Montgomery County Career & Technical Education	Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
Covington City	Montgomery County Economic Development	Virginia Department of Education
Cowden Technologies	MOOG	Virginia Economic Development Partnership
Craig County	Moore and Giles	Virginia Episcopal School
Craig County Public Schools	Mountain Gateway Community College	Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation
CUEDIn	Mueller	Virginia Manufacturers Association
CytoRecovery	National American Specialty Lamination	Virginia Small Business Development Center Lynchburg Region
Danville City	New Covenant Schools	Virginia Tech
Delta Dental	New River Community College	Virginia Tech CECE
Delta Star	New River Valley Regional Commission	Virginia Tech College of Engineering
Dermatology Consultants	NFT42	Virginia Tech Continuing and Professional Education
Dominion Metallurgical	Nortal Consulting	Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center
Downtown Lynchburg Association	NovaTech	Virginia Tech Entrepreneurship Club
Dynax America	Novozymes Biologicals, Inc	Virginia Tech Foundation
Eaton	Nuvotronics	Virginia Tech Link, License, Launch
EDM	Old Dominion Job Corps Center	Virginia Tech Roanoke Center
Elbit Systems of America	Old Dominion Jobcorps	Virginia Technical Institute
Eldor Corporation	Ondsel	Virginia Western Community College
Element US Space and Defense	Onward New River Valley	Volvo Group North America, LLC
Elizabeth's Early Learning Center	Optical Cable Corporation	VTC Ventures - Middleland Capital
English Construction	OrthoVirginia	Wabtec Corp, Graham White Manufacturing Co.
Envision Center/RRHA	Outcomes Consulting Services	Wabtec Corp., Longwood Elastomers
Erik McNair	Oxygen Banking	Warm Hearth Village
Farm Basket	P1 Technologies	West Piedmont Planning District Commission
FasTech	Park View Community Mission	Western Virginia Water Authority
Fermi Energy	Perry Pools and Spa	WestRock
First National Bank	PLDR Law	WexcoUSA
Fleet Labs	Prestige Enterprises (CB Fleet)	Wiley Wilson
Flex Metrics	Progress Printing	Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black
Flowserve	Pulaski County	Yokohama Tire Manufacturing
		YWCA Central Virginia

OUTCOMES & IMPACT

Outcomes Achieved During Fiscal Year 2025:

59 jobs created	\$5,405,000 total capital raised
50 jobs filled	141 credentials awarded
19 businesses created	176 internship placements
7 businesses expanded	58 students trained
168 businesses served	116 employees upskilled
82 entrepreneurs engaged	227 acres impacted/developed
57 mentors engaged	2800 linear feet of water infrastructure



Region 2 staff collect quarterly reports from subgrantees to monitor project progress and update the council. Staff also developed a Tableau dashboard to visually showcase the impact of funded grants, which is updated quarterly and available on the Region 2 website (QR code on page 17).

The **Region 2 Talent Pathways Initiative (TPI)** Report was published in January 2025 and has already supported the development of three GO Virginia project applications, two of which, The Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance Regional Talent Portal and GOTECH Launch in Region 2, have been approved by the State Board.



Scan the QR to read the TPI Report!



OUTCOMES & IMPACT CONTINUED

12 Implementation projects, 4 planning projects, and 2 statewide competitive projects were active in Region 2 between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.

Implementation

1. ACA Classical & CTE Institute
2. Industry 4.0 for the ACE Workforce
3. BTEC-Expanding Welding Training Capacity & Jobs in the Roanoke Valley
4. Workforce & Entrepreneurship Initiatives in a Regional Makerspace
5. Roanoke Regional Talent Strategy
6. Region 2 Talent Pathways Initiative
7. cs/Root
8. Center of Entrepreneurship
9. Falling Branch Corporate Park Phase II
10. Educating Engineers for the Region 2 Workforce
11. Developing IT & Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline to Advance Cluster Growth
12. Strengthening Entrepreneurs' Impact

Planning

1. Bedford Metal Workforce Retention Center
2. GMP Clean
3. NRV Materials & Machinery Cluster Scale-Up
4. Manufacturing Workforce Strategy Development for the Lynchburg Region

Statewide

1. Project VITAL
2. Virginia Chamber AI Landscape Assessment

Manufacturing Workforce Strategy Development for the Lynchburg Region planning project closed in March of 2025. This project exemplifies the collaborative design of the GO Virginia program. The Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance (LRBA) coordinated and launched the Educator Workforce Academy, a multi-day summer event designed to bring K-12 educators and target-sector companies together to support talent retention and workforce stability in the region. Academy programming provided educators with invaluable insights to career opportunities in the region including site visits, guest speaker requests for classes, and developing action plans for integrating career pathways into curricula. The project also produced a career pathways analysis for the nuclear technology and energy sector in Greater Lynchburg. The results of this report were used to inform and shape the implementation project application for the LRBA Regional Talent Portal, which has been approved by the State Board. This implementation grant also directly meets Strategy 9, Build Digital and Physical Hubs of Support for Employers, in the Region 2 TPI report and further, the design of the LRBA Regional Talent Portal, to be named SayYestoLYHRegion.org, was inspired by another project, The Roanoke Regional Talent Strategy, which also closed in FY25 and included the launch of Get2KnowNoke.com.

Project VITAL is an unprecedented statewide initiative spanning across regions 2, 4, and 9 with a total of \$14.3 million in GO Virginia funding to support research, workforce development, and start-ups in the Life Sciences and Biotechnology sector. \$4.9 million of the total funding was allocated to Region 2. The Roanoke-Blacksburg Innovation Alliance serves as the Region 2 subgrantee and coordinates, tracks, and reports all Region 2 activities and outcomes. The contract began on January 1, 2025 and the project has achieved 21 businesses served, 6 entrepreneurs engaged, 5 mentors engaged, 4 jobs created, and \$5.4 million in capital raised in the first 6 months of the project.

COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH

Region 2 Digital Content

Sign up
for the
Newsletter!



From Staff

- 2 Blogs
- 6 Newsletters

LinkedIn

- 53 posts
- 18,274 impressions
- 650 reactions
- 206 new followers (656 total)

Facebook

- 53 posts
- 271 content interactions
- 6,098 reach (people who saw content from Page)
- 28 new followers
- 155 Total followers

2024 Celebrate Success Events

In November 2024, Region 2 staff held 3 subregional events that brought together stakeholders representing economic development, government, higher education, and industry to celebrate the success of projects and program funded by GO Virginia in Region 2.

November 1, 2024: New River Valley - VT College of Data & Decision Sciences

November 7, 2024: Roanoke - Virginia Western Community College

November 13, 2024: Lynchburg - Randolph College

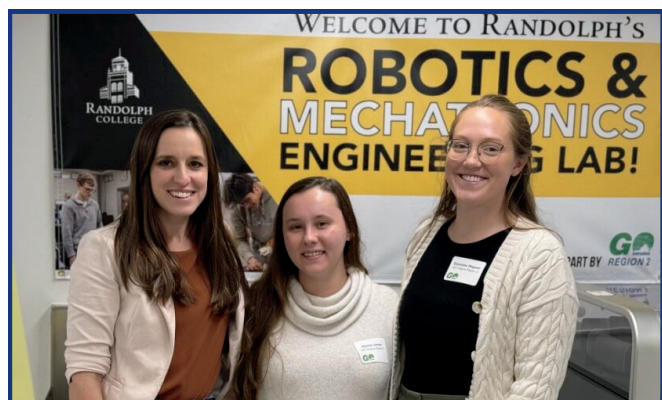


Chairman Dr. Eddie Amos, addressing attendees at the 2024 Celebrate Success Event at Virginia Western Community College.

Photo Credit: Julia Kell



Jonathan Skelton, Assistant Professor of Robotics & Mechatronic Engineering at Randolph College, overseeing a robotic arm that performed the ribbon cutting for the new robotics lab, funded in part by GOVA. *Photo Credit: Randolph College*



Program Manager Jemma Sabokrouh and program coordinators Rachel Jones and Emmalee Wagner (left to right) at the 2024 Celebrate Success Event at Randolph College.

Photo Credit: Randolph College

COMMUNICATION & OUTREACH CONTINUED

Speakers Bureau

In early 2025, five council members contributed their time for Speakers Bureau sessions at the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission and at Board of Supervisors meetings for Amherst, Appomattox, Campbell, and Alleghany County.

Regional Outreach

Program Coordinator Emmalee Wagner represented the GOVA Program at the Second Annual Future of Talent Summit at Radford University on March 13, 2025, and at a Vibrant Virginia Alleghany County Community Session on June 16, 2025.



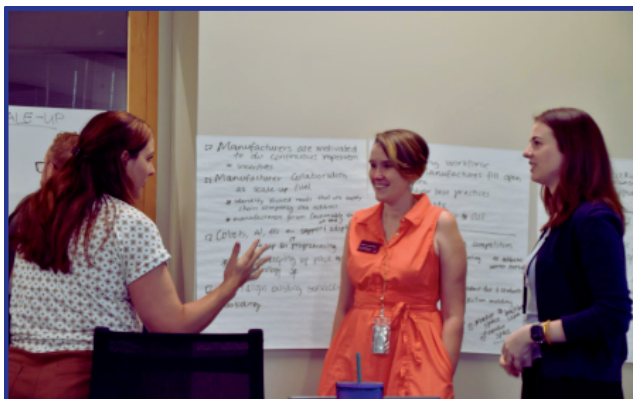
Program coordinator, Emmalee Wagner, facilitating a discussion group focused on supporting industry needs at the Vibrant Virginia Alleghany Community Session, hosted at Mountain Gateway Community College.
Photo Credit: Julia Kell

2025 Growth & Diversification Plan Work Group Sessions

A crucial step in the 2025 Growth & Diversification Plan update was the workgroup sessions for each of the region's target industries. These public events allowed industry leaders, council members, partners, and stakeholders to come together and reflect on needs, priorities, and strategies to strengthen the region for each sector. Region 2 staff hosted four work group sessions throughout Region 2 to ensure a wide breadth of input was captured.

Industry Cluster Work Group Sessions:

Advanced Materials Manufacturing & Manufacturing for Transportation, Energy & Autonomy: (2) Lynchburg & New River Valley
Life Science & Biotechnology: Roanoke
IT, Engineering Services & Emerging Technology: Roanoke



Dr. Sarah Lyon-Hill (VT Center for Economic and Community Engagement) speaking with Jessi Fritz (VEDP) about manufacturing needs in the New River Valley.
Photo Credit: Julia Kell



Lynchburg leaders participating in a priority strategization activity for the Manufacturing Industry work group, hosted at the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance.
Photo Credit: Emmalee Wagner

PROJECT PIPELINE

Region 2 staff work closely with organization contacts who are interested in applying for a GO Virginia grant. The process begins with the applicant submitting their Expression of Interest, a form which asks for basic eligibility information, refers them to program guidance documents, and helps to structure the proposal within the GOVA framework. Next, staff reaches out to schedule a meeting with the applicant to discuss project activities, budget, and program requirements and provide guidance on next steps and priorities for the proposal. Region 2 staff aims to make the application process as collaborative as possible to support applicants in shaping their proposal, provide guidance and feedback, and refer them to previously funded projects.

Projects listed in the pipeline are in various phases of project development and applying for funds but have met at least once with GO Virginia Region 2 staff.

Project	Grant Type	Description
NRV Business Storm Preparedness Resource	HBRI	The Greater Roanoke and NRV SBDC will develop a plan to support businesses in storm and natural disaster preparedness to minimize impacts in future events through the Helene Business Recovery Initiative.
VTI Workforce Pathways Plan for ACE Technology	Planning	The Virginia Tech Transportation Institute will develop a strategic plan for a regional technical training implementation program to retain, attract, and train workers to meet the needs of advancing ACE technologies.
Jubilee Family Development Center STEM Expansion	Implementation	In partnership with CVCC, the Jubilee Family Development Center will expand their STEM programming to offer training and certification opportunities supporting the advanced materials manufacturing and IT, engineering services, and emerging technology clusters.
Vector Space Robotics Facility	Planning	Vector Space will conduct site visits, develop curriculum, and launch a pilot program toward developing a robust robotics program for students in the Lynchburg region
LRBA Regional Talent Portal	Implementation	Following their planning grant, the LRBA will launch SayYestoLYHRegion.org, a comprehensive resource to support workforce needs at all levels for Greater Lynchburg. <i>*This project was approved by the GO Virginia State Board on September 9, 2025.</i>
Project RISE	Implementation	The Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center is launching the new Entrepreneur Resource Center, a central hub where entrepreneurs can access expertise, technology, AI tools, and commercialization opportunities to support the launch of startups in the region.
BRIC Industry Scale Up Strategy	Statewide Competitive Planning	The Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor is working with GOVA Regions 2 and 3 to develop a strategy playbook to scale up priority industry clusters across the BRIC megaregion
Bedford Metal Workforce Retention Center	Implementation	Following the close of their planning grant, the Town of Bedford will implement the plan they developed to design and upgrade the building to serve as the new training center.
Additive Manufacturing and Advanced Materials (AM ²)Hub	Statewide Competitive	An initiative to develop an advanced materials tech hub in GOVA Regions 2 and 3. This project will also support CTE programming in secondary schools to align with regional industry needs

COUNCIL MEMBERS

*No longer council member as of FY 2026

** New council member as of FY 2026

Dr. William E. Amos, Chair	TORC Robotics (Retired)
Beverly Dalton, Vice Chair*	English Construction
Paul Denham, Vice Chair	Southern Air Inc.
Doug Agner	Graham White Manufacturing (Wabtec)
Dr. Nathaniel Bishop*	Carilion Clinic
Dr. John Capps	Central Virginia Community College
Dr. Kenneth Craig*	Liberty University
Janice Crawford	Framatome Inc. (Retired)
Whitney Czelusniak	American Electric Power
Greg Feldmann	Skyline Capital
Dr. Michael Friedlander	Fralin Biomedical Research Institute
Don Halliwill	Carilion Clinic
Mike Hamlar*	Hamlar-Curtis Funeral Home
Nanci Hardwick	MELD Manufacturing
Steven Harvey**	TECHLAB
Vince Hatcher	Hollingsworth & Vose Company
Dr. Pat Huber*	New River Valley Community College
Bif Johnson	Hurt & Proffitt
Dr. Angela Joyner**	Radford University
Fourd Kemper	Woods Rogers Attorneys at Law
Marty Muscatello	MM Consulting
Nicholas Kessler**	Kubota of Lynchburg
Ken McFadyen**	Alleghany County
Kimball Payne	The Berkley Group
Debbie Petrine	Commonwealth Care of Roanoke
John Putney*	Bedford County
Amy Sebring	Virginia Tech
Dr. Rawle Seupaul**	Carilion Clinic
Dr. Ray Smoot*	Virginia Tech Foundation (Retired)
Luke Towles	Pinnacle Financial Partners
Cathy Underwood	Branch Builds
Richmond Vincent	Goodwill of the Valleys
Amy White	Virginia Western Community College
Jacob Wright	Merry Go Round Farms
Justin Yalung	IV Labs

SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

John Provo, Executive Director	jprovo@vt.edu
Jemma Sabokrouh, Program Manager	jemma@vt.edu
Emmalee Wagner, Program Coordinator	emmaleewagner@vt.edu
Barb Reibsam, Program Coordinator	barbielee@vt.edu
Alyssa McKenney, Contracts Program Specialist	alyssa1@vt.edu
Tracie Smith, Fiscal Specialist	sweeneyt@vt.edu
Sarah Lyon-Hill, Director for Research Development	sarahlh@vt.edu
Elli Travis, Associate Director for Impact & Evaluation	emtravis@vt.edu
Scott Tate, Associate Director for Community Innovations	atate1@vt.edu



Visit the GOVA Region 2 website to learn more about funded projects, submit an Expression of Interest, and view the Region 2 Tableau dashboard.



**CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
VIRGINIA TECH.



**CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
VIRGINIA TECH.

cece.vt.edu

1900 Kraft Dr.
Blacksburg, VA 24061
Contact us: (540) 231-1511