GO Virginia Region 2

ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024

Prepared by:
Virginia Tech Center for Economic and
Community Engagement, support staff to
the GO Virginia Region 2 Council

VT | CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
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GO VIRGINIA | VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
GROWTH &
OPPORTUNITY
IN EACH REGION

CONTENTS

Introduction

Virginia Tech's Center for Economic and Community Engagement serves as Region 2's support organization. The support organization provides planning, research, financial, and administrative services for the GO Virginia Region 2 Council.

Region 2 of GO Virginia consists of three Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA): Blacksburg, Roanoke and Lynchburg, as well as some adjacent rural jurisdictions. All told the region 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.

While small, the MSAs in our region have seen some of the fastest job growth in the state this year. Blacksburg (3.8%), Roanoke (2.9%) and Lynchburg (2.8%) were only exceeded by Charlottesville (4.4%). They grew at a faster rate than the regions making up Virginia's urban crescent, Richmond (2.6%), Hampton Roads (1.9%) and Washington (.8%).[1]

Arguably our region provides some of the best return on investment for GO Virginia program dollars. Region 2 targets four industry clusters that are not only transformative for our future but significant for the state and its priorities. These include:

Transportation Equipment and Autonomy
Materials and Machinery
Life Sciences and Biotechnology
IT, Engineering and Emerging Technology

As described in this report, all four clusters received significant attention from Region 2 this year. This annual report serves as a record and celebration of the activities, partnerships, research, and outcomes that have taken place in GO Virginia Region 2 during the past fiscal year (July 2023 – June 2024).

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1 https://www.bls.gov/charts/metro-area-employment-and-unemployment/metro-area-oty-percent-change-in-employment.htm

Growth & Diversification Plan

The 2023 update of the Growth and Diversification Plan better aligned prioritized strategies with target industry clusters for Region 2. The focus of these strategies is still centered on four strategy areas: talent, cluster scale-up, entrepreneurship, and sites and infrastructure. By reviewing the newly funded seven projects and six ongoing projects, we identified what strategies and target clusters were most addressed. In terms of industry cluster: seven projects addressed the region's two manufacturing clusters, five addressed strategies related to IT and emerging technologies, and three addressed life sciences and biotechnology.

Key strategies addressed included:

Talent (8 projects): Strong focus on building career pipelines for all clusters through awareness building, training, and then talent retention of graduates
- Implement talent retention and attraction programs, particularly for scientists and managerial professions, centered on local universities and regions that may currently draw talent from this region (e.g. North Carolina)
- Develop clear career pathways from entry through senior level employment to illustrate a lifetime of career opportunities
- Increase technician, engineering and industry-driven, non-degree training
- Identify, implement, and support innovative strategies for worker retention

Cluster Scale-Up (1): Focus on planning for material and machinery manufacturing cluster scale-up, including supply-chain development, technology adoption and IP commercialization, and developing/marketing the cluster identity
- Develop and market better regional and national cluster identity
- Streamline methods of commercializing university intellectual property
- Develop and diversify cluster supply chain

Entrepreneurship/Sites and Infrastructure (4): Focus on lowering barriers to entry for the life sciences, manufacturing, and emerging markets by strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem support pipeline from early-stage exposure and training for startups, to ongoing support capital, mentor, and prototyping facility development
- Identify and implement programming that reduces the cost of entry for beginning businesses (e.g. subsidized labs and workspaces with flexible configurations)

Project gaps that could be filled in the future include:
Talent
- Develop accessible and affordable childcare programming for all target cluster employee retention. This strategy was particularly highlighted by life sciences and biotechnologies businesses.
- Prioritize upskilling programs in electrification and automation, mostly for the transportation and autonomy cluster.
- Have higher education institutions prioritize or highlight regional employers in their career fairs and other employment events across all clusters. No funding was awarded, but no monitoring of these events occurred either.

Cluster Scale Up

- Catalyze technology adoption and development among all cluster businesses
- Build and attract regulatory expertise in life sciences and biotechnology cluster
- Create a corridor strategy for cluster development in transportation and autonomy
- Attract additional heavy vehicle manufacturing to the region
- Encourage adoption of automation technologies among manufacturers

Entrepreneurship/Sites and Infrastructure

- Develop entrepreneur-in-residence and investment seminar programs to grow and attract knowledge and expertise to region
- Identify cluster needs among SBIT Phase I and II recipients

Summary of Projects

Project	GO Virginia Funds	Locality Match	Non-Locality Match	Other Leverage
Strengthening Entrepreneurs' Impact	$577,800	$157,500	$131,400	-
Region 2 Talent Pathways Initiative	$250,000	-	$125,029	$167,500
NRV Materials and Machinery Cluster Scale-Up	$98,859	-	$102,528	-
ACA Classical and CTE Institute	$565,000	$159,209	$159,050	$941,530
Educating Engineers for the Region 2 Workforce	$367,200	$4,366	$375,417	-
Manufacturing Workforce Strategy Development for the Lynchburg Region	$40,500	$18,750	$18,750	-
Developing IT and Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline to Advance Cluster Growth	$202,872	$15,363	$101,500	-

Strengthening Entrepreneurs' Impact | VERGE

Localities served: Counties of Botetourt, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Roanoke. Cities of Radford, Roanoke, and Salem. Local matching funds were contributed by the counties of Botetourt, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Roanoke, and the cities of Roanoke and Salem. This project will support the evolving needs of early-stage entrepreneurs and ultimately strengthen the technology and biotech industry ecosystem that supports the New River Valley and Roanoke Region. The Verge Alliance is the only organization in the state that marries together a technology and biotech accelerator and a technology council to look at the needs of the region's innovation economy from small startups to larger corporations. RAMP specifically focuses on accelerating and supporting Region 2 technology and biotech companies. Project products are a formalized OnRAMP cohort program and an Ecosystem Navigator Program. For Exit Ramp, scaled programming outcomes would include continuing education to RAMP alumni companies and founders, capital and funding opportunities for early-stage companies, better alignment with specific human capital needs and greater mentorship development & retention. Finally, by using upgraded digital tools, such as Crunchbase to gather data, the Region 2: Innovation Ecosystem Report will be enhanced with early-stage startups' information. Outcomes include 70 jobs created/filled, 35 existing businesses expanded, 8 new businesses created, 58 businesses served, 58 entrepreneurs engaged, and 50 mentors engaged.

Region 2 Talent Pathways Initiative | Virginia Tech's Center for Economic and Community Engagement

Localities served: The counties of Alleghany, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Botetourt, Campbell, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles,

Montgomery, Pulaski, and Roanoke, and the cities of Covington, Lynchburg, Radford, Roanoke, and Salem. The Region 2 TPI planning project will lead a robust, industry-led planning process to align industry, workforce, and education partners around talent pathways for high-wage, high-demand occupations in the Life Science & Healthcare and Transportation Manufacturing & Autonomy industry clusters. This process will address workforce needs, identify skills, training, and high-impact strategies and projects for future implementation in Region 2. Region 2 implementation partners include: ACE Cluster Coalition: Virginia Tech College of Engineering, Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers, Central Virginia Workforce Development Board, Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board, Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance, New River/ Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board, Onward NRV (New River Valley), Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council/Verge, and Roanoke Regional Partnership. Region 2 Key Education Partners Include: Central Virginia Community College, Liberty University, Mountain Gateway Community College, New River Community College, Radford University, Virginia Western Community College, and Virginia Tech. Successful completion of the planning process will produce the following deliverables for each industry cluster: 1) Industry coalition/steering committee list (industry leaders and participating localities), 2) Inventory of regional employers in the industry cluster, 3) Analysis of workforce needs (now and projected in the next 5 years for entry- mid- and senior-level positions), 4) Asset map of regional training providers and capacity (now and projected in the next 5 years), and 5) Talent Pipeline Development Plan: identified strategies for highest-impact pathway projects.

NRV Materials & Machinery Cluster Scale-Up | New River Valley Regional Commission

Localities served: The counties of Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski, and the city of Radford. The project will develop a 10-year roadmap for supporting materials and machinery scale-up in the NRV. This process will include 1.) Building and strengthening the capacity of the coalition of NRV stakeholders interested in growing this cluster through regular discussions and planning around the cluster. 2.) Mapping out assets and resources that could support industry scale up in the NRV. This mapping would include not only entities in the NRV but also those in the Roanoke, Lynchburg, and Danville metro and micropolitan areas as a way of better understanding how those resources connect to the NRV cluster. 3.) Identifying and prioritizing unique projects that could support ecosystem growth and transformation of the cluster. The final roadmap will also scope out and detail 2-3 of these prioritized projects; designate regional champions for advancing those projects; identify possible funding sources for those projects; and propose steps for advancing those projects.

ACA Classical & CTE Institute | Appomattox County

Localities served: The county of Appomattox, and the city of Lynchburg. Local matching funds were contributed by Appomattox County. This project is a partnership between the County of Appomattox, Central Virginia Community College (CVCC), and the Appomattox Christian Academy (ACA). ACA is developing the ACA Classical & CTE Institute to offer workforce training for youth and adults in welding and machining. CVCC will operate the welding program at the Institute and already offers degree-track classes on-site. ACA plans to add 10 new welding booths and new fabrication space. These facilities would add capacity for 35 more welding students annually throughout the Central Virginia Planning District and enhance the educational experience of every CVCC welding student by introducing the first dedicated fabrication shop for welders-in-training in the region. Every CVCC welding student would have access to the shop, where they would learn related tasks like prep, measuring, and bending along with welding. The Institute will enable CVCC to expand its welding program to include NCCER curricula for welding (Phase I) and implement pipefitting (Phase II). Outcomes include 54 students trained and 70 credentials awarded.

Educating Engineers for the Region 2 Workforce | Randolph College

Localities served: The counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell, and Nelson (Region 9), and the city of Lynchburg. Local matching funds were contributed by Lynchburg City Schools, Amherst County Schools, and Nelson County Schools. Randolph College is launching a new community-centered, multi-disciplinary engineering program in the field of mechatronics and robotics to prepare students for skilled, high-income jobs in Region 2. The main goal of this project is to build a sustainable educational workforce pipeline for training engineers that will meet industry-driven workforce development needs. This pipeline will move students from engagement at the high school level all the way through college and into the Region 2 workforce through partnerships with Region 2 engineering companies and other industry partners. This will allow Randolph to provide direct, easy access for local employers to engage with engineering students. Randolph will create an internship program, which will allow students to gain firsthand experience with Region 2 companies, along with education about the region. This project will increase the students' likelihood of remaining in the area and contributing to regional workforce needs. Outcomes include 40 students trained and 40 new internships created.

Manufacturing Workforce Strategy Development for the Lynchburg Region | Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

Localities served: The counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell, and the city of Lynchburg. Local matching funds were contributed by the city of Lynchburg. As part of their 5-year strategic plan, the Regional Workforce Roadmap, the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance is developing programs to enhance career pathways for in-demand careers in the Lynchburg Region thus building a stronger talent pipeline for employers within manufacturing. The Educator Workforce Academy will (1) strengthen the pipeline from K-12 to higher education to career by prompting educators to evaluate their school's career exploration process, (2) increase the number of degree completions and instances of skillset development by giving educators the tools to effectively introduce their students to target industry clusters, and (3) enhance employer engagement activities by connecting employers to educators through on-site tours and presentations. The workforce website will (4) improve knowledge and promotion of complementary workforce and training by establishing a regional, streamlined workforce development process for both the K-12 school system and employers seeking to upskill their current workforce or individuals aspiring to acquire an in-demand skillset. Outcomes include a materials and machinery pathways analysis.

Developing IT and Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline to Advance Cluster Growth | Radford University Economic Development

Localities served: The counties of Montgomery and Pulaski, and the city of Radford. Local matching funds were contributed by the counties of Montgomery and Pulaski, and the city of Radford. The project will 1) enhance coordination and communication among higher education partners (Radford University, Virginia Tech, New River Community College) and regional employers to align certification pipeline with cluster needs; 2) develop a pipeline of talent from partnering institutions with IT and cybersecurity certifications through on-campus outreach; and 3) connect regional employers to the pipeline of credentialed professionals to fill in-demand occupations as well as educating them on the benefits of upskilling incumbent workers through certifications. The project will also establish a Pearson VUE testing center at The HUB at Radford for Economic Development to make certification testing for IT and cybersecurity certifications more accessible to students and incumbent workers in the New River Valley. GO Virginia funds will be used for salaries and fringe benefits for Radford University staff for work related to this project, travel time for staff, testing center setup and equipment, software subscriptions, outreach costs for events organized and hosted for project activities, program promotional materials, office supplies, and indirect costs. Outcomes include 15 businesses served and 104 credentials awarded.

Regional Collaboration & Partner Support

Collaborative Work:
Project subgrantees and partners spanning across business, education, and local government sectors collaborated over the past year to implement their programming, leading to an increase in regional collaboration and higher-wage jobs. This includes direct 1:1 engagement with high schools and community colleges, connecting employers and potential employees at regional events both small and large, and involving business, higher education, and local government in advisory and strategic working groups. Specific examples are listed below, followed by the full list of partners:

Expanding Welding Training Capacity and Jobs in the Roanoke Valley partnered with Botetourt County Public Schools and the Botetourt Education Foundation to coordinate work-based learning experiences for high school students to participate in introductory welding training at Altec, Canatal, Metalsa, and Roanoke Cement.

The Airport Commerce Park project collaborated with the City of Lynchburg, Campbell County Economic Development, and the Lynchburg Regional Airport Commission to develop a business and industrial park with aviation uses.

Industry 4.0 for the Automated-Connected-Electrified (ACE) Workforce worked with implementation partner GENEDGE on delivery of modules with Roanoke Higher Education Center and Central Virginia Community College in close collaboration with more than 12 regional employers.

The Lynchburg Career Acceleration Program worked with Centra Health and Framatone on pathway development and collaborated with Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance for asset-based career exploration. 240 graduates with a Lynchburg Beacon of Hope scholarship attended Central Virginia Community College.

Regional Talent Strategy Implementation included ongoing convenings, co-development of events, and advisory councils with Branch Group, The Bridge Institute, Carilion Clinic, Craig County High Schools, Dynax America, Eldor Corporation, HUB Corporation, LeadPoint Digital, Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council, Roanoke City Schools, Roanoke College, Roanoke Regional Partnership, Robins and Morton, Thalhimer, Truist, Virginia Western Community College, and WestRock.

Full Partner List

The full partner list is compiled from grantee self-reports. Projects reported a total of 181 partners with significant engagement over the past year. 17 partners were engaged in multiple projects.

- 2C Innovation Commons (Crown Industry)
- 757 Collab
- Academy Center of the Arts
- Automated Conveyor Systems
- Aeroprobe
- Altec
- AMG Machine Shop & Fabrication Center
- Amherst County Public Schools
- Amtek
- Appomattox County Public Schools
- Assa Abloy / Medeco
- Bank of the James
- Banker Steel
- Beacon of Hope
- Belvac
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Boeing
- Botetourt County
- Botetourt Education Foundation
- Botetourt Technical Education Center
- Branch
- BWXT Technologies
- Campbell County Economic Development Authority
- Campbell County Public Schools
- Campbell Univeristy
- Carter Machinery

- Commonwealth Cyber Initiative
- Centra
- Centra College of Nursing
- Central Virginia Community College
- Central Virginia Woodworkers Guild
- City of Danville
- City of Lynchburg Economic Development Authority
- City of Lynchburg Public Works
- City of Radford
- City of Roanoke
- City of Roanoke Department of Economic Development
- Cloudfit Software Development
- CO.STARTERS
- Consensus Realty
- Corning
- Cowden Technologies
- CUEDIn
- Central Virginia Community College
- Eaton
- EDM
- Elbit Systems of America
- Eldor Corporation
- Elizabeth's Early Learning Center
- English Construction
- Farm Basket
- FasTech
- Fermi Energy
- First National Bank
- Fleet Labs
- Flex Metrics
- Flowserve

- Floyd County
- Framatome
- Franklin County Economic Development
- Free Clinic
- Gefertec
- GENEDGE
- General Dynamics
- Giles County
- Global Metal Finishing
- Goodwill Inustries of the Valleys
- Hollingsworth & Vose
- Homestead Creamery
- HUB Corp.
- HumanKind Early Head Start
- Inmotion
- Innerspec
- Innovate Lynchburg
- Innovative Wireless Technologies
- Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (IALR)
- Integer
- IperionX
- IRON Lives
- Jamerson-Lewis Construction
- Jubilee Family Development Center
- Kollmorgen
- L3Harris
- Launch CLT
- Liberty University
- Lionberger
- Longwood SEED Center
- Longwood University
- Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance
- Lynchburg City Schools

- Lynchburg Fire Department
- Lynchburg Grows
- Lynchburg Office of Economic Development and Tourism
- Lynchburg Regional Business Authority
- Manufactory
- McAirlaid's
- Medeco
- MELD Manufacturing
- MELD PrintWorks
- Metalsa
- Micro Harmonics Corporation
- Montgomery County
- Montgomery County Career & Technical Education
- Montgomery County Economic Development
- MOOG
- Moore and Giles
- New Covenant Schools
- New River Community College
- New River Valley Regional Commission
- New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board
- Nortal Consulting
- NovaTech
- Novozymes Biologicals, Inc.
- Ondsel
- Onward New River Valley
- Onward NRV
- Optical Cable
- OrthoVirginia
- Park View Community Mission
- Prestige Enterprises (CB Fleet)
- Pulaski County
- Roanoke Regional Partnership
- Salem City Schools
- SBDC Lynchburg Region
- Select Bank
- Skyphos Industries
- Sonny Merryman
- Southern Air
- Pulaski County Career & Technical Education
- Radford High School Career & Technical Education
- Radford University
- Radically Rural Biotech - Hannah Grimes Center
- Randolph College
- Region 2 Internship Collaborative
- Renaissance Lighting and Metal Furniture
- Roanoke City Public Schools
- Roanoke County Economic Development
- Roanoke County Public Schools
- Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Southern Virginia Regional Alliance/IALR
- SOVA Innovation Hub
- Spark Innovation Center
- Sweet Briar College
- TechOpp Consulting, Inc
- The Boeing Company
- TORC Robotics
- Town of Vinton
- University of Lynchburg
- VA Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Innovation Commercialization Assistance Program
- VA SBDC Lynchburg Region
- Vector Space
- Virginia Economic Development Partnership Manufacturing Sector Team
- VERGE
- Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation
- Virginia Career Works
- Virginia Career Works - Blue Ridge
- Virginia Career Works - Central Region
- Virginia CDFI Coalition
- Virginia Department of Education
- Virginia Economic Development Partnership
- Virginia Episcopal School
- Virginia Manufacturers Association
- Virginia Tech
- Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement
- Virginia Tech College of Engineering
- Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center
- Virginia Tech Continuing and Professional Education
- Virginia Tech Link License Launch
- Virginia Tech Roanoke Regional Initiatives
- Virginia Western Community College
- Volvo Group North America, LLC
- Volvo/Mack Trucks
- VTC Ventures - Middleland Capital
- Virginia Technical Institute
- Wabtec Corp., Graham White Manufacturing Co.
- Wabtec Longwood Elastomers
- Wegmann
- West Piedmont Planning District Commission
- Western Virginia Water Authority
- Wiley Wilson
- YWCA - Central Virginia

Outcomes and Impact

9 implementation projects and 4 planning (ECB) projects were active in Region 2 and reported between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

The nine active implementation projects collectively achieved the following outcomes during the fiscal year as reported in their quarterly reports:

- Students trained: 303
- New jobs created: 118
- Businesses served: 70
- Credentials awarded: 83
- New internships/apprenticeships: 190
- Employees upskilled: 220
- Businesses created: 40
- Entrepreneurs engaged: 360
- Mentors engaged: 68
- Businesses expanded: 17

Four planning (ECB) projects have made earnest progress towards their outcomes. Region 2 Talent Pathways Initiative is entering the final stages of the grant with their deliverables of strategic plans for the Life Sciences and Biotechnology and Transportation Equipment and Autonomy clusters. NRV Materials and Machinery Cluster Scale-Up mapped entrepreneurial and business development assets as well as a workforce asset map and identification of future implementation priorities. Bedford Metal Workforce Retention Center overcame hurdles to close on the property at 1 Abrasive Avenue and continue to progress towards their goal to determine a programming and operational model to complete their master plan for the center. Manufacturing Workforce Strategy Development for the Lynchburg Region started work in Q1 of 2024, with progress made towards a materials and machinery pathways analysis.

Talent Project Evaluation

This year, Region 2 staff completed an evaluation assessment of medium-term outcomes and impacts of talent-focused projects taking place between 2017-2023. The objective of this evaluation was to understand how GO Virginia Region 2 investments contribute to regional outcomes. The evaluation included a review of 14 talent projects, staff interviews with 11 talent project grantees to identify additional outcomes and 4 interviews with companies representing each regional priority cluster, and extensive collection and analyzation of regional educational industry-relevant data.

Projects reviewed:

Planning

- Lynchburg Beacon of Hope: Future Centers Playbook
- Carilion Building a Regional Health Sciences Talent Pipeline
- Career & Technical Education Study
- Industry 4.0 for the Region 2 Workforce
- Stopping the Brain Drain

Training

- Region 2 Talent Collaborative
- Blockchain Ecosystem Catalyst
- Additive Manufacturing Partnership Labs (AMPL)
- Central Virginia Community College CTE Academy
- Enhancing the Region through New Technologies for Unmanned Systems (Drone Zone)

Internships

- Classrooms to Careers
- Developing a Destination for Talent
- Experiential Learning in Tech Employment (ELITE)
- Ignite Internship Expansion

Total metrics:

- 1,799 people trained
- 248 job placements
- 185 businesses served
- 429 new interns placed
- 7 new programs implemented
- 1,719 credentials awarded
- 543 students that completed a dual enrollment program

The findings of this evaluation indicate that GO Virginia talent projects in Region 2 have contributed to 5 medium-term outcomes:

1. Strengthened pipeline to priority industry clusters

GOVA Contribution: Training, credentials, improved efficiency and connections with institutions and employers

2. Enhanced employer engagement

GOVA Contribution: Connections between institutions and employers, employers with students

3. Reduced brain drain

GOVA Contribution: Interactions between companies and students, exposure to regional work-lifestyle

4. Attracting skilled talent

GOVA Contribution: wraparound internship programs, interaction with local companies, long-term relationship building

5. More skilled labor in target industry sectors

GOVA Contribution: Certifications, collaborations, new courses, access to specialized equipment, interns hired

Additional information and methodology of this report will be made available on the GO Virginia Region 2 website at https://cece.vt.edu/GOVAR2. html.

Communication and Outreach

Dates of Region 2 Council Meetings: The GO Virginia Region 2 Council convened on July 24 and October 19, 2023 and January 25 and April 23, 2024.

GO Virginia Region 2 Newsletters: Five GOVA Region 2 newsletters were sent out. 987 people are currently subscribed to the list. The newsletters have an average open rate of 37%.

Regional Roundup newsletter for Region 2 Council: The Regional Roundup newsletter, sent out after each state board meeting to the council members, was shared three times during the reporting period. 30 people are subscribed to this list. The memos have an average open rate of 65%.

GO Virginia Region 2 Celebrate Success events
GO Virginia Region 2 Staff hosted three Celebrate Success Events to showcase and celebrate projects and outcomes achieved over the past year. At each event, grantees, council members, and regional partners networked with one another and learned more about projects in the region.

December 13, 2023: RAMP Regional Accelerator in Roanoke
December 18, 2023: COgro Labs in Blacksburg
January 4, 2024: Vector Space in Lynchburg

Chair of the GOVA Region 2 Council William Eddie Amos and President of Verge Erin Burcham welcomed attendees to the Roanoke Celebrate Success event.

Matt Livingston, the director of business development for the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, where COgro Labs is housed, speaks to attendees at the Blacksburg Celebrate Success event.

GO Virginia Region 2 grantee Lynchburg Beacon of Hope had a booth at the Lynchburg Celebrate Success event.

January 25, 2024 GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting

April 23, 2024 GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting

Project Pipeline

Region 2 staff have met to preliminarily discuss these projects with interested project leaders. Project and application development is in progress for Pipeline projects.

1. Greater Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers (GOTEC) | Pulaski County and Roanoke County Schools

2. Expanding Welding Training Capacity in the Roanoke Valley | Virginia Western Community College

3. Workforce Credentials in Manufacturing Trade | Build Smart Institute

4. Expanding Nursing and EMT Training Programs | Ferrum College

5. Career Exploration Experience | New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board

6. Youth Work Based Learning in Traded Sectors | Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board

7. Lynchburg Talent Retention Through Childcare Incentive Program | United Way of Central Virginia

Council Members

Name	Company/Agency
Dr. William E. Amos, *Chair*	TORC Robotics (Retired)
Beverley Dalton, *Vice-Chair*	English Construction
Doug Agner	Graham White Manufacturing (Wabtec)
Dr. Nathaniel Bishop	Virginia Tech
Dr. John Capps	Central Virginia Community College
Kenneth Craig	Liberty University
Janice Crawford	Framatome, Inc.
Whitney Czelusniak	American Electric Power
Paul Denham	Southern Air Inc.
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
Vince Hatcher	Hollingsworth & Vose Company
Dr. Patricia Huber	New River Community College
Bif Johnson	Hurt & Proffitt
Fourd Kemper	Woods Rogers Attorneys at Law
Marty Muscatello	MM Consulting
Kimball Payne	The Berkley Group
Debbie Petrine	Commonwealth Care of Roanoke
John Putney	Bedford County
Amy Sebring	Virginia Tech
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	Alleghany Highlands School Board/Merry Go Round Farms
Justin Yalung	IV Labs

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GO Virginia Region 2 website: https://cece.vt.edu/GOVAR2.html

Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement website: https://cece.vt.edu/

References

Cover page, photo 1: Aspire Marketing. *GO Virginia Region 2 Blacksburg Celebrate Success event at CoGro Labs.* 18 December 2023.

Cover page, photo 2: Aspire Marketing. *GO Virginia Region 2 Lynchburg Celebrate Success event at Vector Space.* 4 January 2024.

Cover page, photo 3: Aspire Marketing. *GO Virginia Region 2 Roanoke Celebrate Success event at RAMP Regional Accelerator.* 13 December 2023.

Page 14, photo: Aspire Marketing. *Chair of the GOVA Region 2 Council William Eddie Amos and President of Verge Erin Burcham at the Roanoke Celebrate Success event.* 13 December 2023.

Page 15, photo 1: Aspire Marketing. *Matt Livingston at the Blacksburg Celebrate Success event.* 18 December 2023.

Page 15, photo 2: Aspire Marketing. *Lynchburg Beacon of Hope at the Lynchburg Celebrate Success event.* 4 January 2024.

Page 15, photo 3: Kell, Julia. *GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting.* 25 January 2024.

Page 15, photo 4: Kell, Julia. *GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting.* 23 April 2024.

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