



November 30, 2022

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## Next Submission Deadline: January 6, 2023 by 5 p.m.

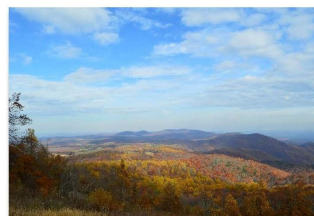
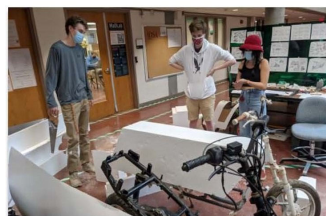
There is \$2,147,522 available for Region 2 focused projects, and additional statewide competitive funds are available for multi-regional proposals. There is \$250,000 available for Enhanced Capacity Building (planning) projects. Relaxed match requirements of 2:1 with a waived local match remain in effect; however, local participation is still required.

Learn more on our website: <https://cece.vt.edu/GOVAR2/RequestforProposals.html>

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# Introducing GO Virginia Region 2's Annual Report for FY22

## GO Virginia Region 2 Annual Report FY22



View the annual report here: [https://cece.vt.edu/content/dam/cece\\_vt\\_edu/govirginia\\_documentation/GOVA%20R2%20Annual%20Report%202022.pdf](https://cece.vt.edu/content/dam/cece_vt_edu/govirginia_documentation/GOVA%20R2%20Annual%20Report%202022.pdf)

## GO Virginia Region 2 Council Approves Four Projects



The GO Virginia Region 2 council approved the following four projects at their meeting on November 2, 2022.

### **Botetourt Technical Education Center – Expanding Welding Training Capacity & Jobs in the Roanoke Valley (Botetourt County Economic Development Authority)**

This project seeks to enhance the region's capacity to train and prepare welders. The GO Virginia funding would help support the installation of ten (10) new welding booths at BTEC's campus in Fincastle. This expansion is projected to deliver forty-five (45) new welders to the regional workforce over the initial three-year project term.

### **LRBA Center of Entrepreneurship (Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance)**

This project seeks to establish an entrepreneurial center of excellence for the Greater Lynchburg region, to serve as an anchor and catalyst for the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The Center would foster an environment for new and serial entrepreneurs to raise capital, access resources and garner the support system needed to take their products and/or solutions into the marketplace.

### **Airport Commerce Park Regional Development (City of Lynchburg)**

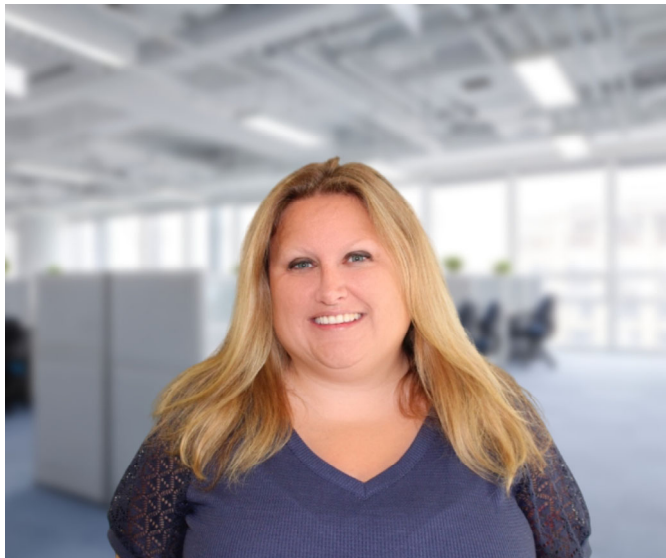
This project seeks funding for due diligence to advance the Airport Commerce Park site from a Virginia Business Ready Sites Program site characterization Tier 2 to a Tier 3 to strengthen competitive position in the global marketplace and attract advanced manufacturing, technology and life sciences with a potential focus on aerospace. This effort will be completed within the first 12 months.

### **Industry 4.0 for the Automated-Connected-Electrified (ACE) Workforce Applicant (Virginia Tech College of Engineering)**

This project seeks to advance the region's transportation and autonomous vehicles sector by providing direct technical assistance and advising to sector companies; creating a network navigator position to have a designated individual to serve as a point of contact to help companies find the resources that best fit their needs; and enhancing and implementing the Industry 4.0 Curriculum that was developed through a prior Virginia Tech-led GO Virginia ECB grant. The coalition will develop a multiscale curriculum with hands-on training for in-demand jobs and skills for designing, fabricating, testing, production, installation, and maintenance of automated transportation systems.

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## **Meet a GOVA Region 2 Grantee: Morgan Romeo, Regional Talent Strategy Implementation**



*Originally from Vinton, Virginia, Morgan Romeo has served as executive director of the Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board since 2018. In 2009, she graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in foreign affairs. She found her way into workforce development through an AmeriCorps VISTA position helping refugees that resettled in Charlottesville find employment. She then started work as a case manager for federal grants at the workforce development board in Charlottesville, before moving up to the Assistant Director position. In 2017, Morgan moved back to the area with her husband and son and settled back in Vinton, VA.*

### **1. What is your favorite part of your job as executive director of the Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board?**

My favorite part is seeing the impact that our organization makes through the variety of grants that we

receive. Being a non-profit, we're mostly grant-funded. We do have sustainable federal funds that come to us every year from the U.S. Department of Labor, but we've been able to adapt over the past few years and make sure that we have funding to fill in gaps. No day is the same at my job, which is super exciting for me.

## **2. What was the inspiration behind your GO Virginia Region 2 project?**

Why we went after this grant – and we're so appreciative to GO Virginia – is because we really want to try some creative solutions to retain, develop, and attract our talent. We know a lot of people are stumbling upon the Roanoke area through Roanoke Outside events, and our websites are getting traffic from outside of our state. With this project, we're trying to create an electronic solution in the shape of a web-based talent portal that will get people excited about the Roanoke area. It will help people understand the jobs that are here, the great schools that we have, and the opportunities the region offers. We're not only trying to attract people who don't live here, but also provide resources for the young people and their families who already call the region home.

## **3. What have you accomplished with your project so far?**

We started our project in July 2022 and have hit all of our milestones for the first quarter. We released procurement for the web-based talent portal and are currently sifting through numerous proposals to award a contract. We will choose a vendor who is best equipped to develop the portal and connect it with our existing websites and resources. We have also hit our stride in getting businesses involved with the project and will soon be setting up business field trips with K-12 schools. Our schools are excited to further promote some of their apprenticeship opportunities and work-based learning and get their students connected with businesses to help them realize they can gain employment while they're still in school and can be guaranteed a job after they leave.

## **4. What activities/hobbies do you like to do outside of work?**

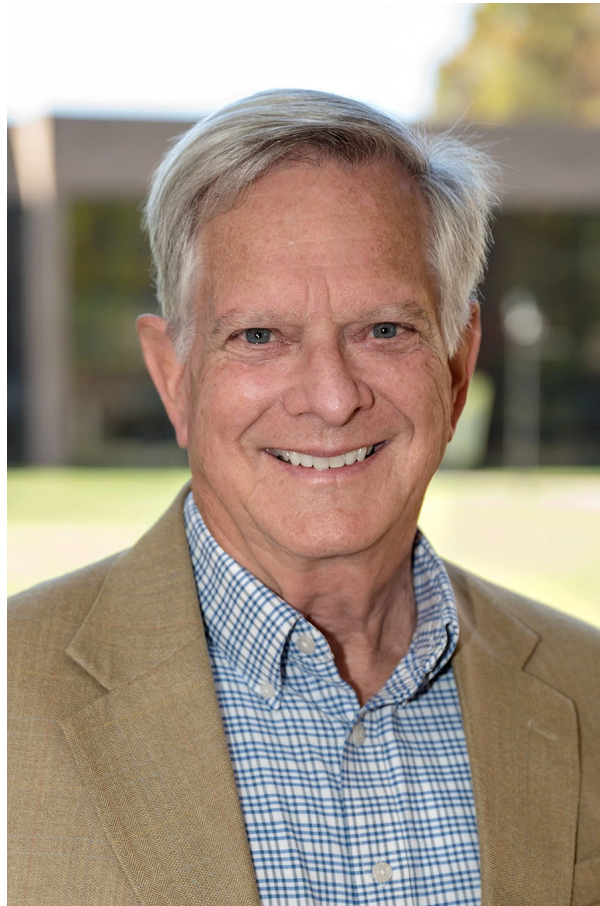
I am a huge University of Virginia fan. I like to hang out with friends and family, enjoying everything Roanoke has to offer and watching our son grow up. I am also now a member of the Parent Teacher Association and am getting more involved with helping the elementary school here.

## **5. What is one of the most memorable places you've ever visited?**

When I was in high school, I went on Appalachian Service Project trips with my youth group. We went to areas that had high levels of poverty, and we would typically rebuild or add on to people's homes. I remember visiting this family in Harlan County, Kentucky, and they had six kids and five dogs and didn't even have running water. Despite their circumstances, they were the happiest people. They were so appreciative and loved life, and that has always stuck with me. It was the first time I had ever seen poverty like that. I think that's what made me want to participate in service work and do something to help people in an impactful way.

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# Meet a GOVA Region 2 Council Member: John Capps, President of Central Virginia Community College



*John Capps has served as the president of Central Virginia Community College since 2011. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in English at Virginia Tech and over the course of his career, has worked as an English instructor at Wytheville Community College, Virginia Tech, and Virginia Western Community College. He served as the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs at Virginia Western and the interim president at Lord Fairfax Community College before becoming president of Central Virginia Community College, where he has remained for the past 11 years.*

## **1. What was your first job and what did it teach you?**

My very first job was a forklift operator at a warehouse. I got this job after graduating from high school and would work there during the summer when I was studying at Virginia Tech. It taught me the importance of teamwork and having a strong work ethic. It also taught me a lesson about the satisfaction that comes from a job well-done. I would unload the trucks, stack the pallets, and then load the trucks. I could go home with a clear mind because my work was done; there was nothing else for me to do until I did it all over again the next day.

## **2. What is your favorite part of your job as president of Central Virginia Community College?**

As president of Central Virginia Community College, I still envision myself as a teacher of sorts. I enjoy the opportunity to play a role in the advancement of the college by moving the communities we serve forward. I think college and university presidents are notorious for their preoccupation with new buildings. I value great buildings and great facilities as much as the next person, but I also care about another kind of building. And that's helping people build their hopes, dreams, and careers. That's what we do here at CVCC.

## **3. What are some of the ways your work at Central Virginia Community College has tied into your work on the GO Virginia Region 2 council?**

In some key ways, these two roles are really one and the same. The ultimate goal of all education is workforce development. In my role as the president, I try to promote student success and instructional excellence, but I also strive to promote workforce and economic development. Probably the most explicit way in which that connection has been made is through my work with the Regional CTE Academy and the Region 2 council's support of that endeavor.

**4. What are some of the lessons you have learned from serving on the Region 2 Council?**

Something that has impressed me about the work of the Region 2 Council is the level of cooperation among the different members who represent different geographical areas and areas of interest. One of the lessons I've learned from seeing that attitude in action is what's good for all of us is better than what's good for some of us. That's been truly refreshing, particularly since I think it's such an extraordinary quality. Another of the lessons I've learned is that economic development is more than just numbers. Ultimately, it's about people. It's about helping people improve the quality of their lives as you help them help themselves.

**5. What is the most memorable place you have ever visited?**

The Blue Ridge Parkway, which is a 15-minute drive from our house. I like to spend time on the parkway because when you're on those mountaintops you can experience the majesty of those panoramic vistas. That's good for the soul. When Emerson writes about being in nature he says, "The currents of the Universal Being circulate through me; I am part or particle of God." And that's how I feel when I'm on the parkway.

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