In This Issue:

Participate in the Blueprint Virginia 2030 Regional Tour

As part of the Blueprint Virginia 2030 development process, the Virginia Chamber Foundation has announced it will host a series of virtual meetings throughout Virginia, in partnership with its network of local, regional, and other chambers of commerce; and GO Virginia.

Participants will have the opportunity to hear directly from Barry DuVal and GO Virginia council leaders for an exclusive economic update presentation from both the statewide and regional perspectives. The initial results for the Blueprint Virginia 2030 Regional Tour survey will be reviewed during each meeting. Most importantly, participants will

have the opportunity to participate in an open dialogue to discuss policy recommendations for the final plan.

Register Here

Next Meeting, May 4

May 4, 2021, GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Connection Information Below:
Join the Meeting: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/85301898908?pwd=UmhrUXlUQTB1UWdQWWQ5UVVwOXIKZz09
Passcode: 501191
Webinar ID: 853 0189 8908

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Meet a GOVA Region 2 Grantee: Matthew Hull, Public Health Readiness Evaluation (PHRE) Tool

1. What is your career history and how has it led to your current role?

I received a Bachelor's Degree in environmental science at Ferrum College and a Master's Degree in biology from Virginia Tech. I got started in nanotechnology, environmental health, and safety working at Luna Innovations, where I developed an environmental technologies group focused on protecting the environment and human health. In 2007, I started my company NanoSafe while working on a Ph.D. at Virginia Tech in Civil and Environmental Engineering. NanoSafe has been going ever since, and I finished my Ph.D. in 2011.

Since 2011, I have been working full-time at Virginia Tech at the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science. When designing the PHRE mobile application, we used a framework I developed years ago, called the NanoSafe framework. We organized the different safety issues that a company will face during the pandemic and we populated those general areas with publicly available health information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Virginia Department of Health, and the local health district.

2. What was the best advice you ever received?

I was inspired by my parents and role models to create time to rest and recharge and to live a life of moderation. As I've gotten older, I've realized how important it is to take time away from work. Some of my best ideas come when spending time away from the desk. As we take on more responsibilities, the thinking is to hunker down in front of the computer and power through emails and tasks. But at some point, you've got to step back and assess the meaning behind the things that you're doing. Are you doing them well and can you think about them deeply? That often requires disengaging.

3. What was the inspiration behind the PHRE tool?

The inspiration behind the tool came from my experience as an entrepreneur and my experience as a consumer. Early on in the pandemic, when we went to order locally from restaurants, it wasn't clear what we needed to do to comply with COVID-19 guidance. The standard of COVID-19 protection varied from place to place. As a consumer that was a frustration on my part, and it's important that as we reopen the economy, customers feel safe when shopping and going out to eat. On the flip side, as an entrepreneur, it's enormously difficult for me to juggle all the tasks I have to do. The PHRE mobile app was meant to streamline the process and provide an entrepreneur with something simple they can use, while they're in the parent pickup line at school, for example. They can see where they're doing well and how they can improve their COVID-19 risk mitigation measures.

4. What have you enjoyed most about being involved in the GO Virginia program and working on the PHRE tool?

My favorite part is trying to make something that solves an immediate problem. I enjoy working toward a solution and being able to make an impact.

5. The project focuses on both technology and entrepreneurship. What role does new technology play in entrepreneurship and why is it important for entrepreneurs to utilize new technologies?

It comes down to time savings and accuracy. There are so many aspects of running a business that technology can make easier. QuickBooks, for example, was a wonderful innovation and has allowed a lot of small companies to stay on top of their finances. Technology is vital to an entrepreneur. It allows them to punch above their weight and also helps them stay on top of the many tasks they have to complete to keep the business running.

6. What is your favorite app that has been most useful to you and your business?

TripIt is one of the apps I use the most and I love it. You email your hotel and flight confirmations to the TripIt app, and TripIt automatically creates a travel itinerary for you. I used to struggle with that, so TripIt has been a huge time saver for me.

7. What are some of the ways you would like to explore nanotechnology in the future? Are there any inventions you would be interested in developing?

I feel there's a role that nano can play in addressing issues such as CO_2 sequestration and global climate change. When we started our company NanoSafe, we were focused on nanosafety, and while we still are addressing that topic, we've also started to focus on using nano for sustainability.

8. What advice would you give to someone interested in getting into the technology field?

The first thing I'd do is tell them to reach out to NanoEarth at Virginia Tech. That's where I am based, and we have an NSF-funded center that's specifically focused on engaging people in nano, in the context of the environment. Nano is all around us, in the dirt, air, and water. We're also very blessed in our region to have the Corporate Research Center, where we have our Nanoscale Characterization and Fabrication lab. During the Game Changer week, we hope to have an event there that raises awareness of what's happening at that facility.

9. Where would you most like to travel?

One of the first ones that come to mind is Cassis, France. It's an absolutely beautiful place. I went there with my Ph.D. advisor at one point when I was doing an internship in France. I'd also like to go to Japan and Greece.

10. What books do you like reading? Is there a book you read recently that you would recommend?

The books I like to read help me think about how I can take practical steps to make life a little easier and more fulfilling. Some of the books I've enjoyed include A World Without Email: Reimagining Work in an Age of Communication

Overload by Cal Newport, Thank You For Being Late by Thomas Friedman, Your Brain at Work by David Rock, Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain, and Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcolm Gladwell.

Meet a GOVA Region 2 Council Member: Janice Crawford, Director of Safety, Security & Loss Prevention at Framatome

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

I got my first job straight out of high school as a supervisor at a Williamson-Dickie manufacturing warehouse. There were lots of different brands there, and we would ship out supplies. The job taught me the value of having a team, in that each individual has an important role and brings their expertise to the group, doing what they need to make sure the team is successful.

2. What is your favorite part of your job at Framatome?

My favorite part is getting the chance to work with others across business units. Framatome is an international company, and we have many locations in the United States and Canada. I'm responsible for environmental health, safety, security, and loss prevention in the North American region. The fact that I am at the North America level allows me to collaborate across all business units, connecting the dots, pulling teams together, and exchanging and sharing

lessons. I like the opportunity to work with subject matter experts across the company and make sure that lessons learned are shared with everyone.

3. What skills have you found vital to your job?

Big picture thinking. Not everyone has that kind of strategic thinking or the ability to see the bigger picture. I've found that's one of my skills: having the ability to step back and see the bigger picture and what we're trying to accomplish, to zoom out to the forest from the trees. I'm also able to size up a situation very quickly. I think those two skills in particular help me with that global and North American reach.

4. What projects are you currently working on right now at Framatome?

One of the biggest projects that we're getting ready to launch is our Safety and Quality month, held in June every year. The planning that goes into that for our North America locations is significant as it involves scheduling our top leadership and coordinating with support function teams and subject matter experts from three business units to develop and deliver content. Another project we are working on is emergency alert system testing. We are conducting our quarterly test of our Emergency Alert System software, updating our Facility Emergency Plans, and planning our bi-annual emergency evacuation drills.

5. What have you learned from being on the GOVA Region 2 Council?

What I've learned is that Framatome supports some of the same projects as GOVA. At Framatome, we are focused on having a strong workforce and talent pool, so we support the Beacon of Hope, which is one of the projects that has been discussed during the council meetings. It's neat to see how connected we are at a local level, for a broader reason. It's been great to work on local, homegrown projects, and I'm seeing that my company will benefit from some of these initiatives, due to the talent pool they will bring into the community.

6. What are some similarities and differences between your role at Framatome and your role as a GOVA Region 2 Council Member?

Both my company and GOVA are looking for economic drivers to create a pipeline of talent and attract a workforce. Those similarities are interesting to me because it shows how connected we are. One of the differences is that the

GOVA Region 2 council brings me out of the sphere in which I work, but I'm able to transfer my knowledge when I'm evaluating GOVA projects. Even though the projects are outside my work range, my knowledge base and my experience lend themselves to evaluating these projects.

7. What has GOVA Region 2 planned for the future that are you looking forward to?

The one project that I evaluated, "Biotech Lab Space Development," submitted by the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center, was interesting to me because it is an academic and business partnership that showed how lab space is a vital need in our region and across the state. I'm interested to see the project travel through the system from beginning to end. I hope that it takes off, as it will bring high-quality talent into the area.

8. Do you have a favorite part or memory from being on the GOVA Region 2 Council?

When I would review material and receive the documents, I had my own thought processes. Being a new member, I found affirmation when I saw that my fellow council members had similar ideas to me. That was one of my favorite moments. I saw that we were approaching these projects the same way and were applying the skill sets we use in our daily jobs to our work on the council. I enjoy the collaborative nature and seeing colleagues across the state come together and step out of their daily walk. When you work for such a large company, you don't often get to focus on a state or regional level project. It's been exciting for me to be able to do that.

9. What activities do you like to do in your spare time?

I enjoy traveling and sports and athletics. Spending time with family and friends is my biggest hobby right now. I also enjoy reading and am currently reading an awesome book, Once an Eagle by Anton Myrer.

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

I travel extensively – I used to have an office in Paris because of my previous role in the company and made many trips to our offices in France and Germany. However, a leisure trip to Ireland was my most memorable trip. My husband and I went and, as neither of us had been before, it was special for us

to be able to see this beautiful country for the first time together. We traveled the Ring of Kerry and Dingle Peninsula. We had an incredible 7-course meal at the Michelin-star awarded Arbutus Lodge in County Cork and kissed the Blarney Stone, which sits high on a tower of the Blarney Castle. The Ireland countryside is beautiful, and everyone we met along our journey was charming, hospitable, and happy to share a pint of Guinness.

Learn about the GOVA Region 2 Projects on our website.

Next Submission Deadline, July 2

The quarterly submission deadline to submit your GO Virginia proposals is July 2. For FY 2022, there are over $1.5 million in collaborative grant funds available for Region 2 focused projects, and additional statewide competitive funds are available for multi-regional proposals. Relaxed match requirements of 2:1 with a waived local match remain in effect during quarter one; however, local participation is still required.

Learn More On Our Website