



October 8, 2025

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Next submission deadline: December 19, 2025 by 5 p.m

There is \$1,004,370 available for Region 2 grants, with up to \$50,000 for planning grants.

[Apply on our website.](#)

Mark your calendar for upcoming meetings

October 29, 2025: GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting, 12:45-2:45 PM, Taubman Museum of Art, 3rd floor, 110 Salem Ave SE, Roanoke, VA 24011

October 29: Join us for the State of the Region reception!



You're invited to the GO Virginia Region 2 State of the Region reception!

At this event, you'll learn how GO Virginia has impacted our region over the past eight years. You'll hear from keynote speaker Jason El Koubi, president and CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and get the chance to connect with council members and regional leaders.

When: Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 3-5pm

Where: Taubman Museum of Art, 110 Salem Ave., Roanoke, VA 24011

We look forward to seeing you!

[RSVP by October 16.](#)

GO Virginia State Board approves Region 2 project

RICHMOND—The GO Virginia State Board announced its approval of one new Region 2 project aimed at growing the regional economy.

Region 2 consists of 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.

Board Approved Project:

Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance Regional Talent Portal

The Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance (LRBA) will launch SayYestoLYHRegion.org, an innovative digital talent hub designed to attract, develop, and retain talent in the Lynchburg region. This online platform will serve as a centralized resource that connects job seekers, students, educators, and employers with high-impact tools and information to support career exploration, workforce entry, and advancement. Key features of the platform include talent attraction tools and relocation resources; a user-guided resource navigation system; and a career pathways portal.

[Learn more about the LRBA Talent Portal.](#)

Meet a GOVA Region 2 Grantee: Megan Atkinson, GO TEC Launch in the New River Valley and Roanoke County



A career educator, Megan Atkinson is in her 22nd year of working in public education and serves as the career and technical education (CTE) and business partnerships administrator for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). She started her career as a health and physical education teacher in King & Queen County, Virginia, and later taught in Falls Church City, Virginia. She moved to the New River Valley in 2012, where she stepped into the role of assistant principal for MCPS. She has worked as a CTE lead for more than half of her career.

Atkinson grew up outside of Richmond and came to Virginia Tech as an undergraduate. She holds a Bachelor's degree in health and physical education, a Master's degree in health promotion, and an Education Specialist degree in School Leadership and Policy Studies from Virginia Tech.

[Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers \(GO TEC®\)](#), an initiative with more than [11,000 participating students across 73 Virginia middle schools](#), uses a hub-and-spoke model to develop a talent pipeline across the Commonwealth of Virginia for sectors such as precision machining, welding, IT coding and networking, automation and robotics, and more. Middle schoolers are introduced early to the occupations through GO TEC Career Connections Labs. In high school, they are connected to expanded career and technical courses, industry certification programs, and dual-enrollment training opportunities. Atkinson's GO Virginia Region 2 project will expand the GO TEC initiative into six school districts in Region 2, located in Montgomery County, City of Radford, Giles County, Pulaski County, and Roanoke County.

1. What made you interested in a career in education?

Growing up, I didn't have an interest in education, but as I started looking at different career paths, I decided that an education degree would allow me to travel the country or even work internationally. As I got into the coursework, I realized I genuinely liked working with students and helping them imagine

themselves in their adult lives, whether through supporting their health and wellness or assisting them in career path exploration.

2. What do you like most about your role as CTE and business partnerships administrator at Montgomery County Public Schools?

I love that I get to be the bridge between education and industry. In many cases, these two worlds operate in silos. I want to make sure we're preparing our K-12 students for their career paths, so that when they walk across the stage at graduation, they have a plan. I collaborate with local industry, showing them how we're preparing students for their future careers. Through these conversations, I'm able to learn what industry sees as a need. From there, we can look at how to infuse that need into the educational programs we're providing.

3. For those who have not heard of the Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers (GO TEC) program, could you provide a brief overview and what inspired you to expand the program to Region 2?

When I heard about GO TEC, they were just starting to expand into GO Virginia Region 1. GO TEC was developed to form a strong partnership between education and industry. Manufacturers need skilled employees for their workforce, and education needs tools to explain manufacturing to middle school students. Because of this program, we don't have to rely on a student having a family member who works in manufacturing to provide them with career awareness. Through GO TEC, we bring exploratory experiences to the classroom.

4. What do you hope the impact of the project will be in Region 2?

I'm hoping this is just the beginning. The students who participate in GO TEC at Christiansburg Middle School will leave the experience with a better understanding of different career options across multiple career clusters. One of the goals of the program is to help students make informed decisions when they get to high school. If they really enjoyed the welding unit through GO TEC, they can take welding classes in high school and start earning credentials for after graduation.

[Read more about Megan Atkinson.](#)

Meet a GO Virginia Region 2 Council Member: Steve Harvey, TECHLAB



Steve Harvey is the vice president of operations and Virginia site lead for [TECHLAB](#), part of SSI Diagnostica Group, which is focused on designing, developing, and manufacturing diagnostics. Harvey graduated from Radford University in 1995 with degrees in biology and chemistry.

1. What is your proudest accomplishment over the course of your career?

I am proud of the workforce we have built and the products our company makes. We have an amazing workforce here in the New River Valley with great energy who care about making a high-quality product. The company's products help people get a diagnosis from a doctor to get better treatment. One of our core values is getting rapid diagnostics to clinicians and doctors so patients have improved outcomes.

2. What is your favorite part of working at Tech Lab and SSI Diagnostica Group?

Over the course of my 30 years with the company, I have seen it change and grow. The company is looking to grow even more over the next few years, through new product development that we're doing right here in Blacksburg and acquisition. We're also transitioning to more manufacturing in our Radford facility. It's exciting to be a part of a company that is growing and getting a lot of recognition globally.

3. What projects are you currently working on?

One fun one we're working on right now is a global enterprise resource planning project. We're doing inventory, accounting, and all things in between. It's a big undertaking for a company of 600 people. We also have a new technology product in development we're going to launch around this time next year.

4. What do you enjoy most about living in Region 2?

I moved around quite a bit growing up. I ended up living in Northern Virginia through high school and college. I fell in love with the New River Valley and love the mountains, the recreation, and the people.

[Read more about Steve Harvey.](#)

Region 2 in the news

[\\$2.8M Growth & Opportunity Grants](#) (New River Valley News)

[Youngkin awards GO Virginia grants for tech and manufacturing](#) (WFXR)
