



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
**GROWTH &
OPPORTUNITY**
IN EACH REGION

COLLABORATION
INSPIRATION
SUCCESS

Regional Roundup

A Memo From the Executive Committee to the GOVA Region 2 Council

September 12, 2024



(From left) Executive Director of the Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement John Provo, President of Verge Erin Burcham, GO Virginia Region 2 and Region 2 Internship Collaborative Program Manager Jemma Sabokrouh, and GO Virginia Region 2 Program Coordinator Rachel Jones pose for a picture at the GO Virginia State Board retreat.

The GO Virginia State Board retreat, which took place at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville, VA focused on Virginia's economic development priorities, growth opportunities moving forward, performance of the GO Virginia program, and high impact talent pathways.

VA DHCD Approves Region 2 Project

RICHMOND—On September 10, 2024, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development administratively approved a Region 2 project.

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.

Good Manufacturing Practices: Cleanroom Manufacturing for Local Engineering Advancement in the New River Valley, GMP CLEAN (Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at Virginia Tech Carilion)

GMP CLEAN will address the need for cleanroom space through planning activities geared toward surveying region-wide and statewide needs and implementing a pilot cleanroom space at the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, impacting a range of industries related to the Life Science & Biotechnology industry cluster. The project is a partnership between the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, VERGE, Virginia Tech, Montgomery County, and the City of Roanoke. The pilot cleanroom space in this project will be utilized to test and promote a state-of-the-art modular cleanroom model and will see use from three local startup companies to manufacture biomedicines: The Tiny Cargo Company, Qentoros, and Acomhal Research. The GO Virginia board approved a total of \$100,000 in state funds for the project, which is leveraging \$221,500 in non-state sources.

“The Fralin Biomedical Research Institute has identified a critical need for cleanroom manufacturing spaces in Region 2 in order to retain start-ups and enable company growth in place,” said Spencer Marsh, chief scientific officer of the Tiny Cargo Company. “Many companies require GMP-level manufacturing to create sterile pharmaceutical products that are required for clinical trials but are not able to access these resources using currently existing region infrastructure, highlighting the potential to lose valuable businesses in 2024 if we do not address this lack of infrastructure. Modular cleanroom spaces may be able to fill this need and can be installed within existing facilities at a much lower cost than full-scale new construction.”

GO Virginia Region 2 In The News

[A program developed in SWVa will serve as a statewide model to address a shortage of health care workers](#) (Cardinal News)

[Get2KnowNoke Launches Transformational Tool for Talent Attraction and Community Connectivity](#) (The Roanoke Star)

[Project providing clean manufacturing space comes to Roanoke](#) (Cardinal News)

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