



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
Secretary of Education

December 10, 2004

TO: The Honorable Mark R. Warner
Governor of Virginia
And
Members of the General Assembly

Section 2.2-207 of the Code of Virginia requests that the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade present a report to the General Assembly regarding private sector and education partnership programs. Therefore, we have the honor of submitting herewith the 2004 Report of the Virginia Business-Education Partnership with regard to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Belle S. Wheelan in cursive script.

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
Secretary of Education

Handwritten signature of Michael J. Schewel in cursive script.

Michael J. Schewel
Secretary of Commerce and Trade

2004 Report
to the
General Assembly

Virginia Private Sector and
Education Partnership
Programs

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**2004 Report to the General Assembly
Virginia Private Sector and Education Partnership Programs**

I. Education for a Lifetime

- ❖ ***Race to GED***
Partner: Virginia Motorsports Industry
- ❖ ***School Turnaround Specialist Program***
Partner: Microsoft Corporation
- ❖ ***Early Childhood Development Grants***
(Private partner applications due 12/04)

II. Governor's Partnership for Achieving Successful Schools (PASS)

III. Virginia Career Education Foundation (VCEF)

IV. Virginia Department of Education

- ❖ ***The AOL/ Governor's Innovative Technology in Education Award***
Partner: America On Line
- ❖ ***Career and Technical Education***
Partners: Virginia Auto Dealers Association, Computer Technology Industry Association (Comp TIA), Brainbench, Pro-soft Training.
- ❖ ***Virginia Business Magazine***

V. Skills Pipeline Partnership

Partner: Northrop Grumman Newport News

I. Education for a Lifetime

Race to GED

Part of Governor Warner's *Education for a Lifetime* initiative, this effort focuses on letting workers raise their level of education so that they are able to take advantage of opportunities available in the modern economy. More than 700,000 working age Virginians do not have a GED or high school diploma. The economic benefits of earning a GED or high school diploma are clear: A Virginia worker with a GED or high school diploma makes more than *twice* the income of workers without one.

Traditionally, the time required to prepare for the GED has been an impediment to men and women trying to earn this important credential. The *Race to GED* initiative allows qualified workers the opportunity to earn a GED in much less time. With today's workers requiring education and skills unheard of a generation ago, a workforce with a high school level credential such as a GED is a key consideration for companies investing in Virginia. The Race to GED initiative involves a unique marketing relationship between the state and the Virginia Motorsports Industry to promote workforce development.

Participating tracks include Richmond International Raceway, Lonesome Pine Raceway in Coeburn, Motor Mile Speedway in New River, Big Daddy's South Boston Speedway in South Boston, Langley Speedway in Hampton, Martinsville Speedway in Martinsville, Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, and Old Dominion Speedway in Manassas.

Turnaround Specialists Program

The Virginia School Turnaround Specialists Program (VSTSP) is an executive education and school leadership program designed to develop a cadre of school administrators who are trained to turn around consistently low performing schools using both principals of business and education management. The University of Virginia Partnership for Leaders in Education, an initiative of the Darden Graduate School of Business and the Curry School of Education with support from the Microsoft Corporation, developed the program. The model, adapted from the business world, selects participants who are dynamic, committed, results oriented leaders and gives these individuals broad authority to propose bold changes.

VSTSP is designed to raise student achievement by focusing on characteristics of high performing organizations, personal leadership qualifications, turnaround leadership skills and the development of school turnaround plans. Administrators who complete the program successfully are eligible to be credentialed in school turnaround management.

Comprehensive Early Childhood Development Grants

The Governor's Early Childhood Development initiative brings focus to supporting early care and education programs by helping parents prepare their young children for school and making sure the health and nutrition needs of children are met. Children are more likely to succeed in school and in life if they have high-quality care and education during their early years. This initiative supports early care and education programs by bringing the public and private sectors together to help Virginia children succeed. Early Childhood Development Partnership grants are now available to community based organizations that can demonstrate an ability to connect people and organizations on a local or regional level to create a comprehensive system of early care and education for young children.

II. Partnership for Achieving Successful Schools (PASS)

The Governor's PASS initiative is a catalyst for partnerships among educators, businesses, agencies and community organizations to help boost Standards of Learning and performance in Virginia's academically at-risk schools. PASS focuses on actively engaging the public and private sectors in partnerships with state and local school divisions. Marshalling support from the larger community is a major tenet of the PASS initiative. PASS Partners, Virginia business and community organizations that have agreed to support priority schools, bring additional resources from the community and help to transcend traditional barriers to success. Partners provide assistance to PASS Priority Schools through the commitment of time, material donations, sponsorship and personnel (e.g.: mentors, tutors, on-site volunteers).

III. Virginia Career Education Foundation (VCEF)

Established in 2002 by Governor Mark Warner, the VCEF works to bridge the gap between the large number of career and technical positions available throughout Virginia and the comparatively small number of qualified applicants to fill these positions. To make sure students are ultimately prepared for the realities of the workplace, and to make sure Virginia continues to attract quality employers, the Virginia Career Education Foundation was formed as an independent, 501©(3) public-private partnership.

Through public-private partnerships, the VCEF promotes and supports initiatives that facilitate quality career and technical programs, greater awareness of career and technical employment opportunities, and the many positive benefits of these educational programs and career choices. All VCEF-funded projects must evidence broad community commitment through matching funds and in-kind services.

IV. Virginia Department of Education

The AOL/ Governor's Innovative Technology in Education Award

Recognizes eight outstanding educators from both public and private elementary, middle and high schools who have developed best methods for using technology in instruction.

Career and Technical Education

- Virginia Auto Dealers Association

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Office of Career and Technical Education, entered into a partnership with the Virginia Auto Dealers association and the Automotive Youth Educational Systems (AYES) to expand programs in Virginia. Virginia was one of the first states to adopt this partnership model, which includes a manufacturer, retailer and educator, all working together to give students enrolled in automotive technology the opportunity to develop skills needed to be successful in a career in auto technology. This partnership has enhanced curriculum and equipment in auto service technology labs. It has also provided opportunities for teacher training and has enabled students to have mentoring experiences and internships in local auto dealerships.

- Brainbench

The VDOE, Office of Career and Technical Education partners with Brainbench, a leader in online skills certification for business and industry. Students who complete a CTE course/program and pass a Board of Education approved Brainbench assessment, can be eligible for verified credits toward their graduation requirements.

- Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)

With the VDOE, this partner provides public schools and community colleges access to its E2C educational program web site. CompTIA also provides free exam vouchers to CTE teachers who are integrating Comp TIA issued industry certifications into their CTE programs.

- Prosoft-Training

The VDOE and Prosoft-Training have entered into a partnership that allows educational discounts to be obtained by schools on the purchase of instructional materials relating to Prosoft-Training's Certified Internet Webmaster (CIW) industry certification program.

Virginia Business Magazine

This partnership, in conjunction with the VDOE provides a new, streamlined program including a career magazine for high school juniors and a web site that is part of the Virginia Career Resource Network that helps students learn the process of career choice.

V. Skills Pipeline Partnership

Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC) and Northrop Grumman Newport News (NGNN)

A nationally recognized model program for creating and sustaining an industry-based skills pipeline. Due to an increase in contracts requiring a substantial increase in design workforce and skilled trades, TNCC and NGNN worked closely together to develop the *Design Co-Op Program* (Manufacturing). Selected students are provided with paid college tuition, fees and paid college co-op experience by NGNN.

Upon completion of the program, students receive an associate degree in applied science in computer-aided drafting and design technology. Graduates are hired as mid-level associate designers at NGNN. Several certificate programs in manufacturing are also proceeding in content development. NGNN and TNCC have also partnered in the development of TNCC's 2+2+2+ manufacturing technology programs articulated with area high schools and Old Dominion University.