



A. Scott Fleming
Director

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA
James Monroe Building, 101 North Fourteenth Street, Richmond, VA 23219

(804) 225-2600
www.schev.edu

To: The Honorable L. Louise Lucas, Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Luke E. Torian, Chair, House Appropriations Committee

From: Scott Fleming, Director, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

Date: June 30, 2025

Subject: Memorandum of Understanding between the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP).

Pursuant to the requirements set forth at § 23.1-903.4 of the Code of Virginia and Items 113 (T) and 132 (I) of Chapter 725 of the 2025 Virginia Acts of Assembly ("the 2025 Acts"), and to commit to actions regarding the Program on an ongoing basis, please find attached a memorandum of understanding between SCHEV and VEDP regarding the Innovative Internship Program (more commonly referred to as the Virginia Talent and Opportunity Partnership, or V-TOP).

Please let me know if you have questions or we can provide further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Scott Fleming", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Scott Fleming

cc: Ms. April Kees, Staff Director, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee
Ms. Wendy Kang, Legislative Fiscal Analyst for K-12 and Higher Education, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee
Ms. Anne Oman, Staff Director, House Appropriations Committee
Mr. Tony Maggio, Legislative Fiscal Analyst for Capital Outlay and Higher Education, House Appropriations Committee
General John Jumper, Chair, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia
Jason El Koubi, President and Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Economic Development Partnership

Enclosure

Innovative Internship Fund Memorandum of Understanding

This **Memorandum of Understanding** (“the Memorandum”), effective June 30, 2025, is entered into by and between the **State Council of Higher Education for Virginia** (“SCHEV”), an agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the **Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority** (“VEDP”), a political subdivision of the Commonwealth.

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum is to memorialize the partnership between SCHEV and VEDP in administering and implementing the Innovative Internship Program (the “Program”) requirements set forth at § 23.1-903.4 of the Code of Virginia and Items 113 (T) and 132 (I) of Chapter 725 of the 2025 Virginia Acts of Assembly (“the 2025 Acts”), and to commit to actions regarding the Program on an ongoing basis.

Overview

The Program was established in 2019 and has been subsequently amended and expanded. SCHEV currently administers the Innovative Internship Program. The 2025 Acts direct VEDP to support the employer-facing activities of the Program. The funding is designed to expand paid or credit-bearing student internship and other work-based learning opportunities in collaboration with Virginia employers. In furtherance of this support and collaboration, the 2025 Acts direct SCHEV and VEDP to enter into a Memorandum to transition employer-focused outreach and engagement to VEDP.

Development of Comprehensive Plan

SCHEV and VEDP shall develop a comprehensive plan (“the Plan”) regarding the coordination, communication, and facilitation regarding the student-focused and employer-focused aspects of the program. The Plan shall be developed in consultation with business, industry, education, and workforce development partners, and shall be completed no later than October 1, 2025. The Plan shall include at a minimum: (i) a clear communications strategy between SCHEV, VEDP, and other relevant parties in administering the Program, including frequency of coordination, primary points of contact, and information-sharing protocols; (ii) the collaborative development of baselines, metrics, outcomes, and goals, including how data regarding the program will be collected, for both the student-focused and employer-focused aspects of the Program to ensure the commonality and compatibility of SCHEV and VEDP’s efforts; (iii) the development of clear business practices, processes, procedures, and expectations in the administration of the Program; (iv) the establishment of a working group as set forth in the 2025 Acts; (v) a strategy to coordinate regional collaborative activity among the Parties; and (vi) any other items deemed relevant by SCHEV and VEDP.

Immediate Commitments

In order to ensure the continuity of the existing Program while developing and implementing the Plan, SCHEV commits to:

1. Continue to fund the existing regional collaborative grants until October 31, 2025, while coordinating with VEDP on regional convenings, employer outreach and iQuasar referrals; and
2. Continue to fund and execute the existing contract with iQuasar LLC until November 30, 2025.

Both Parties commit to:

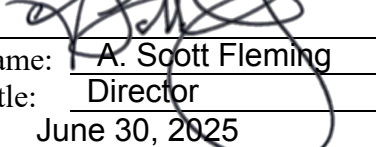
1. Developing the Comprehensive Plan by the date specified; and
2. Cooperating to manage stakeholder engagement with existing advisory groups or relevant organizations; and
3. Coordinating all stakeholder communications to ensure unified messaging and avoid conflicting or duplicative outreach, with joint development and, where appropriate, joint issuance of public-facing communications.

Counterparts


This Memorandum may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Memorandum as of the date first written above.

State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

By 
Name: A. Scott Fleming
Title: Director
Date: June 30, 2025

Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority

By 
Name: Megan Healy
Title: SVP, Talent and Workforce
Date: June 27, 2025