



Office of the Secretary of Education

Perspectives on Virginia Higher Education



Laura W. Fornash
Secretary of Education



Education Secretariat

- Assists the Governor in the development and implementation of the state's education policy. Provides policy guidance to-
 - Sixteen public universities
 - Virginia Community College System
 - Ten higher education and research centers
 - Department of Education
 - State-supported library and museums
- Participation on Statewide Boards
 - Center for Innovative Technology
 - Virginia Workforce Council
 - Early Childhood Advisory Committee



Goals

- Preserving and enhancing the **instructional excellence** of Virginia's higher education system;
- Increasing significantly the percentage of college-age Virginians enrolling in institutions of higher education and **attaining degrees**;
- Attracting and preparing young people for the **STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) areas and other disciplines (e.g., healthcare and advanced manufacturing)** where skill shortages now exist and/or unmet demand is anticipated;
- Forging new effective **public-private partnerships and regional strategies** for business recruitment, workforce preparation, and university-based research;
- Making Virginia a national leader in providing higher education opportunities to **military personnel and veterans**;
- Crafting a **sustainable higher education funding model**;
- Developing **innovative ways to deliver quality instruction**, cost-saving reform strategies, and affordable new pathways to degree attainment;
- Evaluating **strategies to reduce costs** through additional college placement testing and accelerated degree completion; and
- Creating **effective workforce development programs** through expanded use of the Community College System in coordination with the Commission on Economic Development and Job Creation.



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	Timeline
May 2009	Candidate Bob McDonnell announces higher education plan in campaign speech at George Mason University
March 2010	Governor McDonnell issues Executive Order #9 creating the Higher Education Reform, Innovation and Investment Commission
December 2010	Commission issues interim report calling for the “Top Jobs” legislation and Governor McDonnell announces \$100 million investment in higher education
February 2011	Legislation passes General Assembly unanimously
June 2011	Higher Education Advisory Committee Holds First Meeting
July 2011	Revised Six Year Plan Due



Higher Education Advisory Committee

- Includes representatives from the legislature, Governor's cabinet, public and private higher education institutions, and two business leaders
- Responsible for providing recommendations on the implementation of the funding model envisioned by the Higher Education Commission and in the Code of Virginia as a result of the Top Jobs legislation.
- Committee makes recommendations to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia who makes recommendations to the Governor and the chairs of the money committees



Six Year Plans

- Should include-
 - Academic, financial, and enrollment plans
- Specific reporting requirements in the Higher Education Opportunity Act
 - Financial Aid
 - Optimal year round use of facilities
 - Instructional resource sharing
- Board approved (amend or affirm annually)
- “Opt 6” Review-Secretaries of Finance and Education, Director, Department of Planning and Budget, Executive Director of the State Council, and staff directors for the money committees



Website for Further Information

www.education.virginia.gov