4-VA: A Presentation to the State Council of Higher Education

Joy Hughes, Ph.D.
Executive Director of 4-VA
GMU’s Vice President of Information Technology
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Welcome to 4-VA!

4-VA is a consortium of four universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia that are working together to realize Virginia's goals for higher education.
4-VA's mission is to promote inter-university collaborations that leverage the strengths of each partner university in order to accomplish much more than any individual university could achieve alone.
Background

4-VA began in 2010 as a consortium of four universities:

– George Mason University
– James Madison University
– University of Virginia
– Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

to meet needs identified by the Governor's Higher Education Commission and his Jobs Commission
Management Board

4-VA's direction is set by a management board, comprised of:

– the four founding university presidents
– Virginia’s Secretary of Education
– the Executive Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)
– Cisco’s Senior Vice President
4-VA’s Goals

• Decrease the cost of delivering instruction

• Expand access for all Virginians to programs preparing them for rewarding careers

• Increase research competitiveness

• Enhance the success rate of students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) courses and programs
Role of TelePresence

• Physical facilities and technical staff

• Frequent high level meetings using highly immersive video conferencing technology

• Almost weekly strategy and operational meetings
FY 2012 Projects

- Distance education degree completion program in Technology Innovation

- Summer STEM course redesign project focused on improving student success in STEM courses

- Collaborate on data visualization services, a summer HPC bootcamp for students, and techniques for managing research data
2012 Projects, cont.

• Course sharing

• Emporium projects that will lower the cost of delivering instruction and improve student success rates

• Work with MAT-P to design and implement a state-wide network backbone architecture
How Can SCHEV Facilitate/Accelerate Change in Higher Education?

• Program approval procedures designed for a less dynamic time are not suited to further the innovation demanded of higher education by the government and the public.

• Approval mode for programs is defensive in nature, attempting to protect the Commonwealth from programs that might be duplicative or prove expensive to maintain.

• SCHEV staff need to be empowered to foster innovation by being less focused on data about the past and more accepting of the risk that accompanies projections about the future.

• Underlying assumption should be that the heavy intellectual investment being made by the four universities will result in programs that will serve Virginians well into the future.