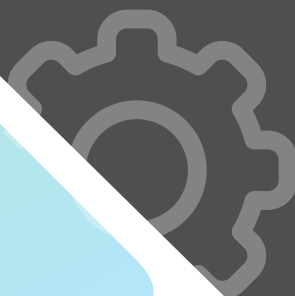


# CONNECTING BUSINESSES TO STUDENTS

The Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership (Virginia TOP) addresses one of the top issues facing the business community: talent. Focusing on work-based learning produces a talented workforce with the skills needed to fill in-demand jobs across Virginia.



## HOW?

By connecting your business with students who want to learn by doing, are looking for an opportunity, and are interested in living and working in Virginia after graduation.



### PROVIDING THE RIGHT RESOURCES

We give businesses vital tools to help them find and recruit talented higher ed students.



### PUTTING OPPORTUNITY WITHIN REACH

We help businesses, students, and higher ed connect and share work-based learning opportunities much more efficiently.



### BUILDING THE TALENT PIPELINE

We encourage students to work in Virginia, fueling the state's talent pipeline and helping the business community.

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
[INFO@VIRGINIATOP.ORG](mailto:INFO@VIRGINIATOP.ORG)



[VIRGINIATOP.org](http://VIRGINIATOP.org)



**VIRGINIA  
TALENT +  
OPPORTUNITY  
PARTNERSHIP**

CREATING PATHWAYS TO PROFESSIONS

# 10%

of students take advantage of work-based learning opportunities

Source: NACE

# 70%

of employers want new college graduate hires to have relevant work experience, especially work-based learning

Source: NACE

# THE TOP

concern of Virginia businesses surveyed is access to necessary talent

Source: *Blueprint Virginia 2025*  
Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Simply, it says we aren't doing enough to find, invest in, and encourage students to live and work in Virginia after they graduate. That's where Virginia TOP helps: to better connect Virginia's business community with students who want to learn by doing.

## HOW DOES VIRGINIA TOP BENEFIT YOUR BUSINESS?

You access a pool of high-achieving, interested, and invested students.

You kick-start your recruitment process for future talent needs.

You enhance relationships with local higher ed for access to talent.

You highlight skills in demand to your business as part of school curriculum.

You embolden students to live and work in Virginia after graduation.

### HOW DO STUDENTS BENEFIT?

Students apply coursework to the professional world.

Students have potential employment opportunities post-graduation.

Students receive class credit and/or compensation.

Students explore career opportunities prior to entering the workforce.

Students gain meaningful experience for future employment.

### HOW DO HIGHER ED INSTITUTIONS BENEFIT?

Higher ed connects academic coursework and business needs.

Higher ed links students to employment opportunities after graduation.

Higher ed collaborates with the community for the benefit of their students.

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