

# CATALYZING OPPORTUNITY

The Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership (Virginia TOP) bridges the gap between Virginia higher education institutions, their students, and businesses providing work-based learning opportunities. Students are looking to enhance their learning experience and gain real-world knowledge that will translate into a job after graduation.



## HOW?

By connecting businesses with your students - individuals 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 higher ed the vital tools to help send talented students to the businesses that need them.



### CONNECTING TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITY

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



### BUILDING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

We encourage higher ed to work with local businesses, in turn helping to build stronger community relationships.

FOR MORE INFO:  
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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, and have higher education institutions serve as a vital partner and catalyst in this process.

## HOW DOES VIRGINIA TOP BENEFIT HIGHER ED?

Work-based learning prepares students while strengthening Virginia's talent pipeline and reinforcing school curriculum. Students contribute their talents and gain skills, while schools and employers collaborate to assist. You should partner with VTOP to:

- ▶ **Share your best practices with other Virginia institutions**
- ▶ **Gain access to readiness resources to improve your students' experience**
- ▶ **Increase collaboration with the business community to better position your student population for in-demand internship and work-based learning opportunities**
- ▶ **Connect academic coursework with current business needs to better support the future workforce and keep students in Virginia after graduation**

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