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Network2WorkRVA: A New Program Supporting Employment Opportunities in the Greater Richmond Region

RICHMOND, Va. – Officials with the Greater Richmond Workforce Development Coalition (WorkforceCoalitionRVA) have announced the launch of Network2WorkRVA, a technology resource designed to connect those seeking jobs with access to training opportunities and employers looking to fill vital roles within their companies.

Network2WorkRVA is the first major initiative from WorkforceCoalitionRVA. The resource will be working with local employers, job seekers and providers in the Greater Richmond region to cultivate a stronger business community.

"When people are able to find and keep jobs with livable wages, they and their families are more likely to experience healthy, stable lives. We all benefit because financially stable individuals and families lead to a better workforce, a stronger community and a thriving region," said Brian Davis, executive director of Virginia Career Works of the Capital Region.

For employers in healthcare, manufacturing and logistics, construction and trades, and information technology, Network2WorkRVA can help recruit, train and provide community support for potential job applicants. If a company is looking for qualified candidates, Network2WorkRVA is available to assist.

For job seekers, Network2WorkRVA can provide access to training and resources as well as connections to open positions in high-demand fields, including healthcare, manufacturing and logistics, construction and trades, information technology and more.

Network2WorkRVA also partners with individuals and local organizations who can help no- and low-wage individuals by offering resources, assistance and aid in a variety of areas, including education, childcare, and housing to name a few.

"Through Network2WorkRVA, industry, education, community organizations and others can come together to support our region and reduce the gap between industry demand and skilled workers," said Elizabeth Creamer, vice president of Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA). "This new organization not only creates a vital connection between those who need workers with those looking for work, but ensures needed community resources are available to help overcome obstacles to obtaining and keeping jobs. This is how to make our region succeed and grow."

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Network2WorkRVA has already attracted more than 175 businesses and more than 30 community-based organizations and has generated support from the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, the Richard S. Reynolds Foundation, Capital One Foundation, the Bob and Anna Lou Schaberg Foundation and Go Virginia Region IV.

For employers, job seekers or providers to enroll or learn more about Network2WorkRVA, visit network2workrva.com.

About WorkforceCoalitionRVA

WorkforceCoaltionRVA began in 2019 with the goal of harnessing the collective resources of individual organizations to help close the skills gap of trades and technician-level workers in vital industry sectors. The Coalition seeks to collectively help close the region's skills gap by preparing low wage, unemployed and underemployed workers to effectively compete for living wage jobs offering opportunities for continued education and career progression.

Coalition members include Capital Region Workforce Partnership, Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA), a partnership of Reynolds and John Tyler Community Colleges; ChamberRVA; Office of Community Wealth Building, City of Richmond; and United Way of Greater Richmond and Petersburg. In addition, the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond provides support through a facilitator and staff.

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Editor's note: Media interviews regarding this launch are available. Contact Jess Hemby at <u>ihemby@charlesryan.com</u> or 601-310-2278.