

AGENDA

GO Virginia Region 2

Working Groups Kickoff Meeting
Friday, June 16, 2017

Location:

Roanoke Higher Education Center, Room 709
108 North Jefferson Street
Roanoke, VA 24016

Schedule:

8:45 - 9:00 am	Arrival and Sign-In
9:00 – 9:05 am	Welcome and Introduction of Speaker Dr. Ray Smoot, GO Virginia Region 2 Council Chair
9:05 - 9:25 am	Opening Remarks Delegate Terry L. Austin, 19 th District
9:25-10:05 am	Region 2 Overview and Program Presentation Council Staff
10:05 -10:15 am	Break
10:15 - 11:45 am	Reconvene in Workgroup Rooms for Facilitated Input Workgroup Chairs, Workgroup Members, and Council Staff Room 709 - Grow skilled talent at all levels Room 710 - Support development of unique sites and building Room 701A - Promote technology for targeted industry clusters Room 708 - Facilitate capital access and business mentorship
11:45 - 12:00 noon	Closing Remarks to Workgroups and Departure

Working Group Descriptions

Skilled talent at all levels: At the state level GO Virginia has identified talent production and the retention of high skilled workers as among critical challenge for all regions in Virginia. The group may focus on the challenge of retaining graduates from our four-year institutions of higher education or opportunities to grow STEM-focused, middle-skill workers at our community colleges and secondary schools.

Technology innovations for targeted industry clusters: Statewide, the GO Virginia program has highlighted the need to better leverage ideas generated from our state's higher education system and companies. The group may consider how getting new ideas to the market place offer opportunities for startups, scale ups and established firms in our region. Specific approaches will be filtered by the needs of targeted industry clusters identified through the G&D planning process. These clusters of related firms in existing or emerging sectors should represent specific opportunities that are ripe for new product development or process improvements.

Development of unique sites and buildings: Having appropriate real estate product, places and spaces where different industries can thrive, has never been more complex and demanding. GO Virginia funds are not appropriate for site acquisition, but the state has recognized there are opportunities to facilitate specific approaches to site development (e.g. industrial parks, destination neighborhoods). The group may shape those opportunities through the needs of targeted clusters identified through the G&D process.

Capital access and business mentorship: A common concern, especially outside the Commonwealth's urban crescent, relates to capital and ideas about how entrepreneurs and businesses access it. The group may concentrate on ways of supporting acceleration efforts for young and growing firms, linking acquisition of capital to high quality mentorship and training programs, that linkage is an increasingly common approach to effectively deploying capital. Such initiatives may be targeted to support firms with high growth potential across challenging stages of their life cycle.