

# Meeting Richmond's STEMM Workforce Needs in the Wake of COVID-19

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# VCU Health's focus: prevent job loss, keep training health care professionals, & help RVA \*safely\* open for business

- **No furloughs** at VCU or VCU Health System
- **Support local businesses** to help retain employees and to stay open/reopen successfully
  - Collaborate with local businesses to produce PPE
  - Educate the LatinX community on mask mandates to keep small, minority-owned businesses open
  - Launched “Healthy Workplace & Campus” initiative to assist businesses and universities to reopen and provide guidance and testing strategies to prevent the spread
- **Continue education and training** and keep colleges, universities, and their employees safe, healthy
  - Daily health check-in app for VCU and other VA colleges
  - Safely restart in-person learning, essential for licensure and credentialing of urgently needed healthcare professionals
  - Continued VCU Health Sciences Career Pipeline initiatives in virtual learning environment, supporting future health care professionals from historically underrepresented groups
- **Major needs as pandemic surged:** acute care nurses, lab and pathology techs, radiology and sonography techs, care coordination, skilled contact tracers

# Strategies that worked, strategies that would help

- **VA Medical Reserve Corps**

- Training volunteers from various sectors of the labor market to support public health emergencies and daily public health activities in VA; redeploy health care professionals

- **Community colleges**

- Nursing refresher courses: relicensure nurses and get them into the field
- Contact tracer training

- **Regional workforce development strategies**

- Virginia's healthcare workforce pipeline, with opportunity to prevent shortages through a regional educational and training strategy

- **Strategic investment for development of scientific/health care workforce**

- Building talent and expertise in science, health care and public health for future crisis situations
- Investing in higher education and research to support public health

Thank you!