

The National Academies of
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**MEETING REGIONAL STEMM WORKFORCE NEEDS IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19:
A VIRTUAL WORKSHOP SERIES**

Agenda for Workshop #3: Richmond, Virginia

Monday, October 19, 2020

1:00 – 4:15PM Eastern Time

Webcast available at <https://bit.ly/31bvGZD>

Workshop Objectives:

- *Explore the economic and STEMM-related workforce impacts from COVID-19 in Richmond, VA, and compare them to state-wide impacts*
- *Identify promising education and workforce practices at the city and state level that are responsive to workforce disruptions brought about by COVID-19*
- *Highlight opportunities and synergies between city, regional, and state policies*

1:00 - 1:15 PM Welcome and workshop overview

Planning committee members welcome attendees and provide background on the workshop series

- Dr. Stuart Andreason, Director, Center for Workforce and Economic Opportunity at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta
- Mr. Alastair Fitzpayne, Executive Director, Future of Work Initiative at the Aspen Institute

1:15 - 2:05 PM Panel 1: Understanding the Economic and Workforce Impacts of COVID-19 on the Capital and the Commonwealth

This panel will frame the workshop discussions by sharing economic, labor force, education, and demographic data for the Richmond metro area, and how it compares to Virginia. Responses offered by statewide and regional experts.

- Dr. Stuart Andreason (National Academies Science, Engineering, and Medicine Task Force Committee Member) - Introductory Remarks and Data Presentation

Respondents:

- Mr. Leonard Sledge, Director, Department of Economic Development, City of Richmond
- Ms. Sonya Waddell, Vice President and Economist, Regional and Community Analysis, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

- Moderator: Mr. Alastair Fitzpayne, Executive Director, Future of Work Initiative at the Aspen Institute

2:05 - 3:00 PM Panel 2: How Richmond's Education and Training Infrastructure is Responding to the COVID-19 Crisis

Panelists will discuss the impact of the pandemic on workforce education and training programs for the Richmond region.

- Dr. Paula Pando, President, Reynolds Community College
- Dr. Hakim Lucas, President, Virginia Union University
- Dr. Peter Buckley, Dean, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Medicine
- Mr. Brian Davis, Executive Director, Capital Region Workforce Development Board
- Mr. Mark Barth, President and CEO, Goodwill Central and Coastal Virginia
- Moderator: Ms. Jane Oates, President, Working Nation; Former Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration, U.S. Department of Labor

3:00 - 3:10 PM Break

3:10 – 4:00 PM Panel 3: Innovative Workforce Solutions - How State and Local Policy and Programs Are Meeting the COVID-19 Challenge

Panelists will discuss post-COVID policy responses and investments in workforce training programs, including the impact of the pandemic on workforce alignment and learner access.

- Dr. Megan Healy, Chief Workforce Advisor to Virginia Governor Ralph Northam
- Ms. Valaryee Mitchell, Director, Office of Community Wealth Building, City of Richmond
- Ms. Caren Merrick, Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Ready Initiative
- Ms. Elizabeth Creamer, Vice President of Workforce Development and Credential Attainment, Community College Workforce Alliance
- Mr. Nat Marshall, Chair, Virginia Board of Workforce Development
- Moderator: Ms. Anna Payne Fife, Associate Director for Outreach and Engagement, Aspen Institute Future of Work Initiative

4:00 - 4:15 PM Conclusion and Workshop Summary

Summary remarks of the key themes, challenges, and policy opportunities related to workforce development for Richmond and Virginia.

- Dr. Josh Carpenter, Director of Economic Development for the City of Birmingham, National Academies Science Engineering and Medicine Task Force Member

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Statement of Task

A committee will plan and host a series of six virtual workshops to identify immediate and near-term regional science, technology, engineering, math, and medical (STEMM) workforce needs in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has impacted workforce demand that includes, but is not limited to, data analytics for logistics and operations, health care, manufacturing, agriculture, and IT infrastructure. The workshops will highlight promising practices that 2-year and 4-year higher education institutions, as well as non-academic training and certification programs, can utilize to respond urgently and appropriately to those needs. In this context, effectiveness of the practices will be judged, in part, on the number of learners who can be reached, especially in the skilled technical workforce. A series of five regionally-specific virtual sessions will address the following questions:

- How have the current and near term regional STEMM labor market needs changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly the needs for the skilled technical workforce (e.g., in IT and computing fields, health tech sectors, manufacturing)?
- To what extent can a regional profile be created that links STEMM educational and training resources with COVID-19 impacted workforce needs, including retraining and certification of professionals?
- What practices and policies can local higher education institutions and workforce training organizations adopt to respond to local industry STEMM workforce needs, both individually and as part of regional coalitions? Which effective practices and policies are replicable and scalable? What barriers, if any, exist that inhibit these programs from meeting COVID-19 shifts in regional STEMM workforce needs?
- How can workforce training and education systems address the significant and urgent needs of the underrepresented minority population, which has been especially impacted by the effects of COVID-19? Can the recent events related to the death of George Floyd raise awareness of the disenfranchisement of the nation's underrepresented minority populations that result from institutionalized racism, and therefore increase focus on the particular needs of those populations?
- What actions are needed to assist local higher education institutions, training and certification programs, industry, and policy makers at the local, state, and federal levels in fostering improved linkages between education and training resources and STEMM workforce needs at the regional level as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Following the five regional sessions, the Committee will convene a concluding virtual workshop, and a designated rapporteur will prepare a proceedings of the workshop series.