

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 28, 2024

Virginia Ready Initiative Announces Plan to Sunset Operations in Q3 2024

Invests 1.3MM+ of Remaining Funds Into Other Virginia Nonprofits to Continue Impact

Alexandria, Virginia – Virginia Ready Initiative, a state-wide nonprofit, has been a catalyst for community change in workforce development, investing over \$6.4M in four years to support over 6,400 career-minded scholars to receive an in-demand credential, obtain career readiness skills, and connect them to family sustaining career opportunities. To date, over 6,300 scholars have already received their credential and another 135 scholars are in the pipeline to obtain their credential by September 15, 2024. Over 68% of Virginia Ready scholars have received employment.

Founded in 2020 as a COVID-19 initiative, *the Virginia Ready team and board have determined the impact of the original organization can scale faster by shifting to invest in established organizations* already dedicated to credentialing and non-traditional education.

Virginia Ready has had the opportunity to convene partnerships with some of the largest employers and institutions across the state, including Virginia Community College System (VCCS), Dominion Energy, Genworth Financial, Sentara Health and others.

This legacy of partnership will continue, by investing back the organization's remaining funds into nonprofits making significant strides across the state (and regionally). These include: United Way of South Hampton Roads, United Way of Southwest Virginia, United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg, the Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham Counties and the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation / Claude Moore Opportunities.

The organizations were selected based on geographic region, their commitment to show impact data, and their alignment with the Virginia Ready mission objectives:

1. Connecting scholars to high-quality, industry-specific training programs.
2. Supporting career advancement in individuals' careers.
3. Driving economic growth and prosperity in Virginia by developing career-minded citizens.
4. Being a skills-first ally in the workforce by providing equal access.
5. Building strong partnerships with businesses, educational institutions, and community organizations.

“Virginia Ready was built on a conviction that every Virginian should have a chance to build the skills they need to help them get to where they want to go. This belief has guided our work and

it's this conviction that led us to channel our resources into the impact of other great organizations doing it well", said Natalie Foster, Virginia Ready Executive Director.

"I am incredibly proud of the work Virginia Ready has been able to accomplish in just four short years. The team has facilitated access to thousands of motivated, skilled, and credentialed workers to fulfill critical roles across the state. We look forward to seeing that momentum continue through the good work of our funding recipients", said Tom McInerney, Board Chair & President and CEO of Genworth Financial.

Virginia Ready has also recently released a [\[White Paper Report\]](#) that is publicly available on their website detailing deeper insights into Virginia's workforce development challenges. Findings and learnings cited include ways to identify and tackle areas that are preventing Virginians from career success, such as skills misalignment, inadequate access to training, economic disparities, employer-education disconnect, lack of career readiness, and need for rapid reskilling. It is the hope of Virginia Ready that like-minded nonprofits in Virginia will carry on their learnings to transform and accelerate the career potential of every Virginian.

About Virginia Ready

Virginia Ready is a state-wide nonprofit dedicated to convening credential based learning opportunities to upskill Virginians for economic mobility.

The organization was launched in response to the unprecedented challenges brought on by COVID-19. Amidst a volatile labor market and significant job losses, the organization has provided essential skills and credentials to help Virginians thrive.

For More Information

Contact: Catherine Morvis

Phone: 703.495.3653

Email: catherine.morvis@virginiaready.org

###