

Multiple Pathways to Success for All Virginians:

A Calendar of STEM-Related Communication Events

Virginia Department of Education

February 28, 2009

Introduction

The core of Virginia's communications plan is the idea that educational attainment provides multiple pathways to success for all Virginians. This core idea is built upon three distinct but related messages:

1. In Virginia, all students need a high school diploma to put them on the path to get a good job and contribute to the state's economy;
2. Virginia is committed to providing students the skills they need to ultimately compete in the workplace; and
3. A Virginia high school diploma now holds real value, providing today's students a 21st century education.

In Virginia's communications calendar you will notice items relating to graduation rate and accreditation announcements. These items tie to our first message, that all students need a high school diploma and that Virginia has a commitment to providing multiple avenues to attaining the diploma.

One of the outgrowths of Virginia's Governor's Career and Technical Academies (STEM Academies) is that students will develop skills that prepare them for high-demand, high-wage fields in the Virginia work force since the Academy programs are designed to match Virginia's work force needs. This is part of the second message.

The Academies, coupled with other policy and programmatic implications (new diplomas, increased graduation requirements, dual enrollment and AP opportunities, etc.) provide opportunities for Virginia students to take multiple paths to being prepared for an unknown future. That is the real value of a 21st century education.

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Date	Events	Additional Information
July 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Kaine issued a press release to announce that Virginia had received an NGA grant to establish STEM centers in the state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.governor.virginia.gov/MediaRelations/NewsReleases/viewRelease.cfm?id=454
September 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Superintendent of Public Instruction issued a Superintendent's Memorandum announcing Virginia's participation in the NGA STEM initiative. The Superintendent's Memorandum also included a Request for Proposals to receive planning and startup funds to establish Governor's Career and Technical Academies. • Information regarding an October 3, 2007, preproposal meeting was widely disseminated by group e-mail and Web site postings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/suptsmemos/2007/inf211.html • http://www.education.virginia.gov/Initiatives/CareerAndTechnicalEd/STEM_RFP_Draft_Black_9-26-07.doc
October 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preproposal meeting for potential applicants. Approximately 100 individuals attended the meeting at Virginia Commonwealth University, representing 25 potential partnerships. • The Virginia Career Education Foundation (VCEF) received a subcontract from the Virginia Department of Education to develop and administer the Governor's Career and Technical Education Exemplary Standards Program. • The Virginia Board of Education approved for first review the process for initiating a Governor's Career and Technical Academy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://vcef.net/ • http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/VA_Board/Meetings/2007/oct-itemI.pdf
November 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Virginia Board of Education approved the criteria and process for establishing Academies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/ct_academies/establishing_new/process_manual.pdf

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December 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor Kaine requested that the Board of Education include a requirement for the development of Academic and Career Plans in the proposed Standards of Accreditation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2008/01_jan/agenda_items/item_d.pdf
January 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Virginia Board of Education approved for first review proposed revisions to the Standards of Accreditation, introducing two new Technical Diplomas, a graduation and completion index required for high school accreditation, and an academic and career plan for middle school students. The Virginia Department of Education issued a press release to announce grant awards to six partnerships to establish Academies. Funding was provided by the NGA grant as well as from state match funding from the Workforce Investment Act. Local and state news media markets covered the grant awards. The VDOE hired a STEM coordinator to coordinate the grant activities. The STEM coordinator established a Web site on the VDOE's Web page to promote the Governor's Career and Technical Academies. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) approved a resolution authorizing SCHEV staff to participate in a postsecondary review of proposals for the Governor's Career and Technical Academies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2008/01_jan/agenda_items/item_d.pdf http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/NewHome/pressreleases/2008/jan4.html http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/ct_academies/index.html http://www.schev.edu/council/AgendaBookIndex.asp
February 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Virginia Department of Education hosted a technical assistance workshop for the six partnerships to assist them in completing their applications to establish a Governor's Career and Technical Academy. Governor Kaine met with representatives of the six partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/ct_academies/index.html#

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A presentation on the Governor's Career and Technical Academies was made at the annual conference of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI). The Virginia Board of Education accepted for first review the Exemplary Standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2008/02_feb/agenda_items/item_c.pdf
March 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Virginia Board of Education approved the Exemplary Standards established by VCEF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://vcef.net/page.php?id=20 http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/2008/03_mar/agenda_items/item_c.pdf
April 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The First Governor's Career and Technical Academy was approved by the Virginia Board of Education (Governor's Career and Technical Academy for Renewable Resources and Agricultural Sciences, Halifax County). The Superintendent of Public Instruction issued a Superintendent's Memorandum requesting nominations for the Governor's Career and Technical Education Exemplary Standards Award Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/ct_academies/academies/halifax.html http://www.doe.virginia.gov/info_centers/superintendents_memos/2008/04_apr/inf100.html
May 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Academies were approved by the Virginia Board of Education (The Governor's Academy for Innovation, Technology and Engineering in Hampton and Fostering Innovation and Relevance Through STEM and Trades in Suffolk). Applications for the Governor's Career and Technical Education Exemplary Standards Award Program were due. A presentation on Virginia's Academies was delivered at the Northern Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics annual awards dinner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/ct_academies/academies/hampton.html http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/ct_academies/academies/suffolk.html http://vcef.net/uploads/files/Nomination%20and%20Application%20Instructions.doc

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June 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Virginia Board of Education approved two Academies to open in fall 2008 (Governor’s Career and Technical Academy in Arlington and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math for Life-Long Initiatives for Future Education in Russell County). A round table discussion about Virginia’s Academies was conducted at the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals’ Conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/ct_academies/academies/arlington.html http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/ct_academies/academies/russell.html
July 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Virginia Board of Education approved the sixth Academy (Stafford Academy for Technology). The Virginia Board of Education approved the first Governor’s Career and Technical Academy to seek approval independent of the NGA Grant (Loudoun Governor’s Career and Technical Academy). A round table discussion on Academies was conducted at the Governor’s Conference on Education sponsored by the Virginia School Board Association. A presentation on the Academies was made at the Virginia New CTE Administrators Workshop. The Virginia Department of Education sponsored a “Literacy in STEM Conference” for approximately 300 K-8 teachers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/ct_academies/academies/stafford.html http://www.doe.virginia.gov/boe/meetings/index.shtml http://www.doe.virginia.gov/info_centers/superintendents_memos/2008/03_mar/inf065.html
August 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven Governor’s Career and Technical Academies will open for the first time in Virginia (August and September). The Virginia Department of Education will announce the AYP status of all public schools in the Commonwealth. 	

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August 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Subcommittee to Study Mathematics, Science and Technology received a briefing on the status of Virginia’s Governor’s Career and Technical Academies. • Two Academies made presentations to the Joint Subcommittee. • Governor Kaine and members of his Cabinet toured the GAITE Academy on August 20, 2008. • On August 14 and 28, 2008, Virginia conducted two workshops explaining the history and calculation of Virginia’s on-time graduation rate. One was held in Wytheville, Virginia and the other in Charlottesville, Virginia. 	
September 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Kaine attended the opening ceremony at the Governor’s Career and Technical Academy in Halifax County on September 10, 2008. • The Department of Education hosted a technical support conference call for new partnerships considering establishing Academies. • The Virginia Department of Education announced the accreditation status of all public schools in the Commonwealth. • A presentation on Academies was made at the Virginia Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators (VACTEA). • On September 4 and 10, 2008, Virginia conducted two workshops explaining the history and calculation of Virginia’s on-time graduation rate. One will be held in Hampton, Virginia and the other in Herndon, Virginia. • On September 25, 2008, Virginia released its SAT and AP results to the state. 	

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October 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virginia released its on-time graduation rate for all high schools, school divisions, and the commonwealth. • On October 3, a presentation on the Governor’s Career and Technical Academies was made at the Leadership Conference of the Virginia School Boards Association. • On October 6, 2008, Virginia’s P-16 Council heard requested presentations on Governor’s Career and Technical Academies from the Academy directors in Halifax and Stafford Counties. 	http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/NewHome/pressreleases/2008/oct8.html
November 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first recipients of the Governor’s Career and Technical Education Exemplary Awards will be announced. • The Virginia Department of Education hosted a WebEx for those interested in establishing Governor’s Career and Technical Academies. • Directors of the Governor’s Career and Technical Academies met to share ideas and strategies for what works in setting up and opening an Academy. 	
December 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The General Assembly’s Manufacturing Development Commission received a presentation from one of the established Academies. 	
January 2009 January 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On January 25-27, representatives from the Governor’s Office, the VDOE and the Academies attended the NGA STEM Policy Academy in Washington, DC. • On January 27, Governor Kaine addressed representatives of the six states that received NGA STEM grants at the Arlington Career and Technical 	http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/02/11/AR2009021101326.html . . . With Governor’s Academy, Arlington Career Center Expands Tech Programs, February 12, 2009, Washington Post

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	<p>Academy. This was an Academy site visit arranged by NGA to coordinate with the January Policy Academy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A VDOE representative delivered a presentation at Longwood College’s summit on “STEM Learning for ALL Students” on January 30th. The summit was a culminating project for a state Mathematics and Science Partnership Grant. • The FIRST Governor’s Academy introduced billboard, radio and mass transit ads to the public in a communications campaign to support STEM education in Suffolk and Isle of Wight Counties in Virginia. 	
February 2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Virginia Secretary of Technology appointed a Senior Advisor to the Commonwealth on STEM Initiatives. • On February 24, the VDOE STEM Coordinator delivered a presentation on Governor’s Academies at the State SACS-CASI conference in Williamsburg, Virginia. 	