

June 22, 2020

Scott Tate, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Virginia Tech Office of Economic Development
702 University City Blvd., Mail Code 0373
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Subject: Expression of Interest in GO Virginia Funding for Central Virginia CTE Academy

Dear Dr. Tate:

CVCC and its local education partners (Amherst Co. Public Schools, Appomattox Co. Public Schools, Bedford Co. Public Schools, Campbell Co. Public Schools, and Lynchburg City Schools) will be introducing a regional career and technical education (CTE) academy to serve high school students, high school graduates, adult learners and underemployed/under-skilled workers throughout the Lynchburg MSA to earn credentials for critical for employment in targeted industry sectors. The targeted industry sectors map closely with the GO Virginia Region 2 Growth and Diversification Plan in Manufacturing, Healthcare, and Information Technology. CVCC recently completed a planning grant for the CTE Academy under a \$267K grant from Virginia's Get a Skill, Get a Job, Give Back (G3) Program. Therefore, our team is ready to begin implementation of the CTE academy. The rollout for the academy has been impacted by COVID-19 but we are planning on a soft-opening for the academy in August or more likely in January, 2021. The GO Virginia funding request is to cover, for the initial 24 months, two key positions that are critical to startup of the academy: Director of Operations and Director of Academy Business Development.

The skills-based training to be provided by the CTE Academy will enable students to pursue well-defined career pathways to not only secure a job but to also obtain higher paying jobs that are achievable with the stackable credentials and certifications. CVCC faculty have already prepared articulated, stackable program pathways that identify regional employment outcomes, documented credential standardization activities that include course and credential results, and itemized equipment needed to support program expansion. Each of the pathways includes a dual enrollment option based on existing programs offered to each of the five area public school divisions.

Region 2 jurisdictions to be impacted/involved:

The project will impact the counties of Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell and the

City of Lynchburg.

Partners and Collaborators:

Draft Memoranda of Understanding have been mutually developed with each of our education partners:

Amherst County Public Schools
Appomattox County Public Schools
Bedford County Public Schools
Campbell County Public Schools
Lynchburg City Schools

CVCC has already received letters of support with methods of participation indicated from 35 regional industry and government entities.

Budgetary Cost Estimate:

Operations Director Salary and Benefits.	\$100K/yr for 2 years = \$200K
Director of Academy Development.	\$100K/yr for 2 years = \$200K
Total Program	\$400K
Matching Amount: (2:1 thru Oct. 18, 2020)	\$134K
Total Request from GO Virginia	\$266K

Expected Outcomes:

Education pathways that are tightly matched to local industry needs and requirements that lead to jobs that pay in excess of the median wage for the region.

A talent pipeline that is better trained and possessing necessary certifications and credentials demanded by local businesses.

Contact Information:

Dr. Jason Ferguson
Interim Associate Vice President, Professional and Career Studies
Email: FergusonJ@centralvirginia.edu
Tel: (434) 832-7797