

Report on Establishing a R&D Inventory: Findings and Recommendations

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**STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER
EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA**

R&D Inventory – Council Objectives

- Review context for the R&D inventory and process.
- Summarize common themes from stakeholder input that shape recommendations.
- Outline advisory committee recommendations.
- Receive input from Council on R&D inventory findings and recommendations.

What is a R&D Inventory?

A state-level R&D inventory is a mechanism to catalog a state's research strengths and corresponding assets.

Relevant Context – Strategic Roadmap

Research and Technology Strategic Roadmap

- Statutory requirement to “*establish a process for maintaining an inventory of the Commonwealth’s current research and development endeavors in both the public and private sectors that can be used to attract research and commercialization excellence in the Commonwealth.*”
- The Roadmap offered high-level input on what the inventory process could entail but did not formally establish the process.
- Build on and from initial inventory input in the Research and Technology Strategic Roadmap.

Relevant Context – VRIC

Virginia Research Investment Committee Meeting – December 2019

- **Conveyed need and support for a R&D inventory.**
- **Charged SCHEV staff with obtaining input on inventory and presenting findings and recommendations.**
- **Asked SCHEV staff to provide a formal report at June meeting.**

R&D Inventory: Input Process

Input sought from 25 stakeholders representing the following:

- Higher education institutions
- Federal research labs
- State economic development entities
- Entrepreneurial resource centers
- Regional technology councils
- Private industry (start ups to large corporations)
- CROs, faculty, entrepreneurs, tech transfer experts, researchers, business leaders/executives, and economic developers

Inventory Advisory Committee:

Composition: 7 individuals representing higher education, federal research facilities, private industry and economic development.

Charge: Based on collective stakeholder input, make recommendations on inventory uses and scope/scale.

Common Themes from Input

- **External uses/needs:** To identify points of contact, available equipment, expertise, programmatic resources, top research areas and corresponding assets.
- **Internal uses/needs:** Benchmarking, objective assessment and potential for collaboration.
- **Scope:** More breadth and less depth.
- **Scale:** Core areas of focus (roadmap) with drill down detail.
- **ROI:** Demonstrating use is critical to success.

Advisory Committee Recommendations

The R&D inventory should:

- **Serve multiple uses beyond statutory requirements (industry, economic development and higher education)**
- **Have different publicly- and internally-facing components in order to meet best the needs of multiple types of users.**
- **To demonstrate use and prove value/return on investment, the committee discussed a process in which an initial, limited-scope pilot could be launched, followed by assessment and then scaling up accordingly.**

Next Steps

- **Obtain Council's input on recommendations and incorporate into draft report.**
- **Present R&D inventory report for action by VRIC at June meeting.**
- **Convey report to prior recipients of the Roadmap, to include CIT per July 1 transition to the Virginia Innovation Partnership Authority (VIPA).**