



***The Youngkin Administration Higher Education Agenda:  
A Commitment to Preparing Every Graduate for Success in Life***

Governor Youngkin and his Administration are committed to building a world class workforce development system. Our colleges and universities must be laser focused on ensuring every student is prepared for success in life. Virginia graduates must be ready to be productive members of our economy, our democracy, and our communities. As we thrive to make Virginia the best place to live, work and raise a family, our Administration will work in unison with the Council of Presidents, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Virginia Community College System and all our higher education institutions to make sure Virginia is the best place to learn. Together we will:

- Promote a vibrant campus life,
- Maintain affordability and reduce the cost of higher education,
- Prepare students for the increasing demands of the knowledge economy
- Build the college and career-ready pipeline in partnership with K-12 school divisions and other key stakeholders

**Promote a Vibrant Campus Life**

- Prioritize safe and vibrant campuses that allow students to foster and grow relationships through in-person learning
- Value and promote a campus culture that embraces and prioritizes free inquiry, civil discourse, and a commitment to free speech
- Prioritize the mental health and well-being of your students, faculty and staff

**Maintain Affordability and Reduce the Cost of Higher Education**

- Reduce costs and keep tuition low for the long-term through strategic solutions that come from leveraging technology, more efficient delivery methods, partnerships with other stakeholders, and innovating and finding new or expanded sources of revenue
- Conduct a comprehensive review of staffing, overhead, academic majors and course offerings, and increase attention on spending and procurement oversight
- Prioritize operating cost transparency and financial health and outcomes through a strategic and reimagined six-year plan process that will be implemented in the Spring of 2023

**Prepare students for the increasing demands of the knowledge economy**

- Redefine success as career-aligned job attainment, efficient attainment of credentials and degrees, and continual upskilling and reskilling for all students
- Prioritize aligning curriculum, programs and requirements to our state's most in-demand workforce needs
- Prioritize a meaningful internship or work-based learning experience as part of the college experience
- Conduct a multi-year study on the future of higher education in Virginia to ensure our higher education system is focused on preparing graduates for the jobs of the knowledge economy and is utilizing best practices from both the Commonwealth and across the nation

**Build the college and career ready pipeline in partnership with K-12 school divisions and other key stakeholders through lab schools or innovation schools**

- Launch lab schools across the Commonwealth at all of Virginia's public and private institutions and higher education centers.
- Strengthen "Pathway Programs" which provide pipelines and specific programs for underserved students across the Commonwealth