

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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The Hampton Roads Innovation Collaborative (HRIC) has launched **Corporate Pillars**, a program designed to emulate some of the conditions that contributed to the success of Silicon Valley tech firms.

Dan Bell, president of HRIC stated “The goals of the Corporate Pillar program are twofold: to provide an environment where large regional organization’s IT leaders can become aware of smaller/growth technology firms within the region, and also to provide feedback on their product, services, strategies and more, contributing toward their growth.”

In 2018, HRIC launched the parent program called “Foundation for Innovation (F4I). The F4I goal was to uncover direct feedback from area tech firms relative to the supporting tech business ecosystem in Hampton Roads.

HRIC interviewed almost 30 area tech firms to find out what’s working and what’s not. All those results were distilled into a report with recommendations. One such recommendation was to create Corporate Pillars with two layers of participation: Pillar Organizations and Growth Firms.

The approach taken by HRIC was to solicit involvement from senior IT personnel in large business, government and academia. To date, the following organizations have opted to participate: Cox, PRA, City of Virginia Beach, City of Chesapeake, Clark Nexsen, Huntington Ingalls Inc. Technical Solutions Division, Newport News Shipbuilding, ODU Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Port of Virginia, Sentara, Tech Center Research Park and Towne Bank.

Beginning with the first meeting in April of 2019 and continuing every 90 days, HRIC organizes a 3-hour Corporate Pillars meeting, inviting 6 growth firms in to present for 20 minutes each (with Q&A) on their business. These are private sessions, closed to the public and invitation only from HRIC. Meeting locations are intended to take place on both the southside and peninsula.

Corporate Pillars is exclusive, in that only key organization’s CIO level people (or their designate) are invited to participate. The program is a no cost, no obligation, non-solicitation effort, but one that’s intended to assist area tech companies succeed, which will help the economy of our region.

The Hampton Roads Innovation Collaborate (HRIC - the region’s technology council), is a volunteer-based c6 non-profit focused entirely on advancing tech firm growth and success in our region.