



Foundation for Innovation New Program Announcement February 2018

Technology Community of Hampton Roads;

Silicon Valley was born through several contributing factors intersecting, including a skilled STEM research base housed in area universities, plentiful venture capital, and steady U.S. Department of Defense spending. Stanford University leadership was especially important in the valley's early development. Together these elements formed the basis of its growth and success.

Consider Hampton Roads almost 50 years later. Our region has great schools, climate, culture, leisure, reasonable cost of living and yet, we have struggled to create a strong technology sector of our economy. In fact, if not for the military and the port, our region wouldn't be as far along as we are.

As a region, we MUST find a way to establish a high technology sector which offers the world intellectual property (patents), and technologies for goods and services, both in commercial and government space. Many of the things we have tried are good things, but the spark has never caught a fire of innovation. With these challenges and thinking forward to the economic vitality of the region, the Hampton Roads Innovation Collaborative (the former Technology Council) introduces **Foundation for Innovation**, a grass roots initiative intended to connect, convene and collaborate, knitting a connective fabric for our innovation assets to connect and draw new produce ideas and engineering together to create a powerful new Hampton Roads Technology Sector.

How it will begin: We are starting a pilot project on the Peninsula. Why? Because Hampton, Newport News and Poquoson have a higher concentration of technology assets enabling a more effective launch. We have every intention of taking the program regional, we just need to start somewhere.

A powerful Advisory Committee: We have initial representation from the Peninsula Chamber Foundation, ODU, Virginia Tech, NASA, Jefferson Lab, CRTN Solutions, Center for Innovative Technology, VA Aerospace Business Association, Zel Tech, Klett Consulting, Versability, ReInvent Hampton Roads, REACTOR Peninsula Accelerator, Liaison for the Navy, VA's former Secretary of Technology and the Economic Development offices from the Peninsula cities. And we will seek to add other noteworthy sources of knowledge from science, academia, business and community.

Regional Asset Inventory: Our initial asset inventory includes those on our Advisory Committee and growing list of supportive efforts in the region. We also need to create a list of high tech firms who are interested in envisioning, designing, patenting, producing and exporting new products from within Hampton Roads, with the support of our ecosystem.

For a quick look at the details of Foundation for Innovation, our initial asset list, and why you'd want to join, please go to: <http://technologyhamptonroads.com/category/business-ecosystem/> and peruse our posted materials.

Call to Action: We need to create the Community of Innovation and Technology. There is **NO COST** to participate in our program. Simply go to www.hrinnovationcollaborative.com and click "Join Our Mailing List" to become part of our community. We will be sending updates to the list to let you know of events, activities, opportunities and more.

Sincerely,

Dan G. Bell

President, Hampton Roads Innovation Collaborative