



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

December 20, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Youth CareerConnect Grant Opportunity

The White House recently announced Youth CareerConnect, a \$100 million competitive grant program for high schools to improve efforts to prepare students for college and high-demand careers. High schools that partner with colleges and employers will compete for 25-40 grants that range in amounts from \$2 to \$7 million. Awards are anticipated to be made in early 2014 for program implementation to align with the 2014-15 school year. Virginia's Career and Technical Education programs are strongly encouraged to collaborate with their community partners to take advantage of this grant opportunity.

The Youth CareerConnect grant program is designed to encourage America's school districts, institutions of higher education, the work force investment system, and their partners to scale up evidence-based high school models that will transform the high school experience for America's youth. The goal of the program is to ensure that all program completers: 1) graduate from high school with a high school diploma; 2) obtain a degree or industry-recognized credential, and have earned college credits towards a degree in the selected high-growth occupation; and 3) move into a positive placement that includes unsubsidized employment, postsecondary education, long-term occupational skills training, or a Registered Apprenticeship.

Youth CareerConnect schools will strengthen America's talent pipeline through:

- Integrated Academic and Career-Focused Learning.
- Employer Engagement.
- Individualized Career and Academic Counseling.
- Work-based Learning and Exposure to the World of Work.
- Program Sustainability.
- Program Performance and Outcomes.

The application deadline is January 27, 2014. The performance period has an anticipated start date of April 1, 2014. For program and application information, please visit the United States Department of Labor Web site at <http://www.doleta.gov/ycc/>.

The Office of Career and Technical Education will provide technical assistance relative to student data, if needed. If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Career and Technical Education by e-mail at CTE@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2051.

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