



For Immediate Release

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REGION 9 APPLICANTS AWARDED NEARLY \$1 MILLION IN GRANTS

Projects Will Bolster Talent Development and Entrepreneurship in Region 9

Charlottesville, Virginia – Yesterday, the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board approved nearly \$1 million in state grants to support three projects in Region 9. The funding will help drive regional economic growth, strengthen local talent pathways, and boost entrepreneurship and innovation across the Piedmont Opportunity Corridor.

The three awarded grants include:

BEACON's Kitchen: New Hill Development Corporation was awarded \$189,000 for an Entrepreneurship project that will establish a commercial kitchen to support the Food & Beverage Manufacturing sector in Charlottesville and Albemarle.

Talent Supply Connector: Virginia Career Works – Piedmont Region was awarded \$391,528 for a Talent Development project that will help the Food & Beverage Manufacturing and Light Manufacturing sectors collaborate to drive a skilled worker pipeline throughout Region 9.

Technology Academies for Fauquier and Rappahannock: Laurel Ridge (formerly Lord Fairfax) Community College Educational Foundation was awarded \$402,075 for a Talent Development project that will offer drone certifications to upskill employees in the Food & Beverage Manufacturing, IT & Communications, and Light Manufacturing sectors.

“Region 9 is proud to have worked with the grant proposal teams to develop the proposals and we appreciate the support from the GO Virginia Board,” **said Ed Dalrymple, Jr., Chair, GO Virginia Region 9 Council.** “Each proposal demonstrated strong collaboration between business, education, and local government and also supported opportunities identified in the Region 9 Growth & Diversification Plan.”

Since the program's inception in 2017, GO Virginia has funded 21 projects and awarded approximately \$5.2 million to catalyze economic development efforts in Region 9. The three new projects will leverage an additional \$506,388 in nonstate resources.



GO Virginia is a bipartisan, business-led economic development initiative that is changing the way the Commonwealth's diverse regions collaborate on economic and workforce development activities. The objective of the GO Virginia program is to foster private sector growth and job creation through state incentives for regional collaboration between business, education, and local government.

Region 9 includes the City of Charlottesville and the Counties of Albemarle, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Nelson, Orange, and Rappahannock. To learn more about GO Virginia Region 9, visit www.GOVirginia9.org

The Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development serves as Region 9's fiscal and administrative support organization. To learn more about the Central Virginia Partnership, visit www.centralvirginia.org

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