

*Commonwealth of Virginia*  
*Office of Governor Ralph S. Northam*

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**Office of the Governor**

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**Governor Northam Announces “Build Virginia”  
to Bolster Workforce Development System  
Across the Commonwealth**

*~ New initiative will serve as a hub to help jobseekers get trained and  
find employment in the skilled trades ~*

**NEWPORT NEWS**—Governor Ralph Northam today announced the launch of Build Virginia, an initiative that will connect workers throughout the Commonwealth with training and employment opportunities in the skilled trades. This effort will initially focus on helping jobseekers and employers in Virginia’s shipbuilding industry, but will ultimately include resources relating to other growing industries including construction and advanced manufacturing.

“Build Virginia is about training our citizens for promising careers in in-demand industries, so that every person has the opportunity to build a healthy, productive life no matter or who you are or where you are from,” **said Governor Northam**. “To stay competitive in the 21st-century economy, we must build a highly skilled workforce with the training that employers require. Build Virginia will serve as an essential resource, helping to bridge these gaps so that our workers can get the skills they need to advance their careers and businesses can find employees with the right skills.”

In addition to current job postings, the Build Virginia website will bring together information about industry-recognized training programs, registered apprenticeships, and other relevant workforce development resources. Build Virginia will serve as a comprehensive hub for citizens to learn about the skilled trades and connect with employers seeking talent.

“Across the Commonwealth, there are thousands of high-paying, quality jobs available in industries like shipbuilding, construction, and manufacturing,” **said Chief Workforce Development Advisor Megan Healy**. “Build Virginia will help raise awareness about these

lucrative opportunities, highlight affordable ways to gain in-demand skills, and meet the current and future hiring needs of Virginia's employers."

"Build Virginia will facilitate the mutually beneficial relationship between our state's dynamic businesses and talented labor force," **said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball**. "It is an important tool for a workforce system like ours that is driven by employer demand."

To learn more, please visit the Build Virginia website at <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/build/>.

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