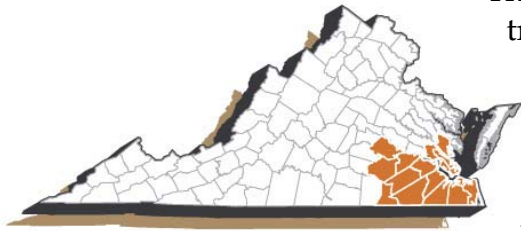


Southeastern Virginia



The Southeastern Virginia Partnership will foster the transformation of a military-based economy into a dynamic worldwide port economy that utilizes a collaborative public-private policy planning and action approach to integrate leading edge technologies into a mature industry and takes a unified approach to solving the issues facing the area.

The Southeastern Virginia Partnership for Regional Transformation (SEVA-PORT) seeks to integrate, enhance and build linkages between the emerging industry of Modeling and Simulation (M&S) and the mature and expanding port-related industries of Transportation, Warehousing and Distribution (TWD), while at the same time reducing the human costs by developing the skills and talent of those recently dislocated workers and untapped labor pools.

Although a major international shipping company has announced a cargo terminal in Portsmouth, a shortage of skilled and qualified workers in rapidly expanding TWD occupations throughout Southeastern Virginia seriously threatens these growing industries. Transportation issues will, if not addressed, halt economic expansion and could have a ripple effect across not only the region, but Virginia and the nation. Integrating M&S technologies within existing TWD industries can improve efficiency and competitiveness while adding high skill, high wage jobs to the region.

The SEVA-PORT Collaborative is a strong regional partnership of over 35 senior-level leaders in economic development, workforce development, civic, business, education, local, state and federal government, entrepreneurial and philanthropic organizations from the southeastern region of Virginia, with a history of collaborative public-private policy planning and implementation in economic and workforce development, research and education. The SEVA-PORT proposal focuses on aligning workforce, economic development and education program planning and delivery with current and emerging demands of a dramatically growing port in order to diversify and expand the economy and increase higher paying job opportunities.

Members of the Greater Peninsula, Hampton Roads and Crater Workforce Investment Boards and their support organizations (Peninsula Council for Workforce Development, Opportunity Inc. and Crater Regional Workforce Investment Group) have leveraged existing region-wide partnerships to establish a broad-based coalition consisting of representatives from the area's educational institutions, community-based organizations, economic and workforce development agencies, business and industry and local elected officials.



Southeastern Virginia



Utilizing the expertise of regional leaders, the following strategies support the overall goal of transforming the regional economy of Southeastern Virginia:

- Strategy 1: Foster economic development in Southeastern Virginia by supporting the needs of the TWD and the M&S industries through network/relationship building, industry driven training, research and development and entrepreneurship.
- Strategy 2: Mitigate BRAC and Industry Downsizing impacts - Assist some 7,000 qualified individuals affected by the BRAC actions and industrial shifts, such as the Ford Plant closure, through talent development, to find new jobs in TWD and M&S industries. Develop a pipeline to transition impacted employees to fast growing occupations in TWD and M&S.
- Strategy 3: Enhance relationships between existing WIRED partners and expand the collaborative as necessary to achieve our goal.

