



Updates from the Office of Economic Development

OED Staff Speaks at Young, Smart & Local Conference

Earlier this week the Office of Economic Development's (OED) Workforce Development Program Manager, Jenny Biché, partnered with Dr. Katie Dulaney, Talent Director & V-TOP Coordinator for the **Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development (CVPED)**, to present at the Fifth Annual Young, Smart & Local Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma.



Their presentation, "Making Talent Work Count: Using Quantitative and Qualitative Measures for Deeper Impact", focused on how program metrics and storytelling can be combined to best demonstrate the impact of workforce development programs. Examples were used from regional initiatives, such as CVPED's TechLink program designed to connect recent college graduates with local opportunities in priority sectors. Local workforce development programs were also highlighted, including **Ready To Work**, a partnership between OED and **Virginia Career Works** that provides individuals with soft skills training, a recognized credential in soft skills, and an opportunity to have a guaranteed interview with a participating local employer.

Young, Smart & Local is a community workforce development network focused on building diverse, local workforces across the US by engaging, attracting, and retaining young professionals. Please join us in congratulating Jenny and Katie for being selected to share information about our local and regional programs with a nationwide audience!

Upcoming Downtown Halloween Events



Don't miss the fun Halloween activities taking place on the Downtown Mall this weekend. There's something for everyone – including your furry family members! Bring your costumed pup out for **Doggie Howl-O-Ween** starting at 5:00 pm Friday evening in front of Pawprints Boutique. On Saturday afternoon, bring the whole family for **Downtown Safe Halloween** starting at 2:00 pm in the Ting Pavilion.

Visit the Fiends...oops, **Friends of Cville Downtown website** and stay up-to-date on the various events taking place on the Downtown Mall all holiday season long!

Minority Business Alliance Welcomes New Leadership

The Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce Minority Business Alliance (MBA) celebrated a new leadership chapter at this year's MBA Gala. Long-time Chair Quinton Harrell, Vice Chair Kaye Monroe, and Secretary Alex Urpi have stepped down to continue advancing their respective business and personal endeavors. The community extends its gratitude for their years of dedication, service, and impact on the Charlottesville business community.

Stepping into leadership are two familiar faces with strong community roots. Teira E. Farley, Chief Operating Officer of **Community Investment Collaborative** will Co-Chair and oversee Operations and Business Development. Kimberly Sheffield, Director of Community Engagement for the

Jefferson School Foundation a will co-chair and take lead on Membership Engagement. Their experience, passion, and commitment to the local business ecosystem and community promise to usher in a new era of collaboration and innovation for the Minority Business Alliance.

Please congratulate Ms. Farley and Ms. Sheffield on their new roles. If you're interested in joining or connecting your business with the MBA community or any other affinity groups within the Chamber, visit their [website](#).

Celebrating Excellence at the Best in Business Awards Dinner

The Best in Business Awards Dinner is the Chamber's biggest annual event, bringing together the region's top leaders, entrepreneurs, and community champions for an elegant evening of recognition and connection.



Hosted by the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce, this year's celebration will take place on Tuesday, November 19th at The Club at Glenmore.

This inspiring evening will feature great energy, delicious food, and heartfelt moments honoring the local businesses that continue to put their best foot forward. Whether you're a business owner, community member, or local supporter, this is the perfect opportunity to connect, network, and celebrate excellence in our community. While these businesses receive well-deserved recognition.

Don't miss your chance to be part of this unforgettable event, celebrating the businesses and individuals driving innovation and growth throughout Charlottesville and the surrounding region!

Beyond Zero: A Film Screening Presented by Apex Clean Energy and C3



Tickets are now available for a screening of *Beyond Zero* at The Paramount Theater, Wednesday, November 12th, starting at 5:00 pm. Presented by Apex Clean Energy and Community Climate Collaborative (C3), *Beyond Zero* focuses on the story of a CEO who made a decision to redirect his billion-dollar company onto a path of increased sustainability and in doing so, improved the company's overall success and resilience. A live Q&A session with Dan Hendrix, the man behind the story, will follow the screening.

If you are interested in learning more about the connections for business between sustainability, resiliency and success, secure your seats today by visiting The Paramount Theater's website.

Available Property Spotlight

Are you looking for a small to mid-size office space adjacent to the University of Virginia and a popular retail area? If so, **1932 Arlington Boulevard** might be the place for you. Nestled just across from Barracks Road Shopping Center and right down the street from UVA Grounds, this property is home to a number of small businesses from a variety of market sectors. Two spaces are currently available for lease – 620 square-feet on the first floor and 1,865 square-feet on the second. The site includes on-site parking for the convenience of you and your clients. Contact Paula Figgatt of the UVA Foundation (pfiggatt@uvafoundation.com or 434-982-4846) for more information or to schedule a showing.



Find information on other available properties in the City of Charlottesville by visiting the Office of Economic Development's "**Sites & Buildings**" webpage. If you have commercial, retail, or industrial space available for lease or sale, let us know by emailing property information and any marketing flyer to ecodev@charlottesville.gov.

OED Fun Fact

Although it is unknown precisely where and when the phrase "trick or treat" was coined, the custom had been firmly established in American popular culture by 1951, when trick-or-treating was depicted in the Peanuts comic strip. This Saturday, 10/25, the annual Downtown Safe

Halloween Festival will be at the Ting Pavilion from 2-4 PM. This is a fun family event that features music, costume contest, photo booth, arts and crafts and much more!

Free Business Resources



The Central Virginia Small Business Development Center is a team of business and technical experts available to advise and assist entrepreneurs, confidentially and free of charge. They offer 1:1 assistance, curated research, access to technical experts and professionals, and timely events/training. To see upcoming SBDC events, click [here!](#)

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