Regional Registered Apprenticeship Collaboration

VASS Conference

October 27, 2026

Dr. Jamie Soltis and Mr. Jason Suhr

Background

- Based on a state-run model (VDOLI)
- Two Types Offered
  - Youth Registered Apprenticeship (YRA)
  - Registered Apprenticeship (RA)
- Local Credit Earned

Background

Started small, and planned for growth…

- 2017-18: 5 students, 1 business
- 2018-19: 24 students, 8 businesses
- 2019-20: 28 students, 10 businesses – **SALEM CITY**
- 2020-21: 15 students, 9 businesses (COVID)
- 2021-22: 22 students, 10 businesses – **ROANOKE CITY**
- 2022-23: 37 students, 14 businesses
- 2023-24: 47 students, 18 businesses
- 2024-25: 33 students, 17 businesses – **BOTETOURT COUNTY**
- 2025-26: 33 students, 22 businesses
- 2026-27: 43 students, 26 businesses

Goals of the Program

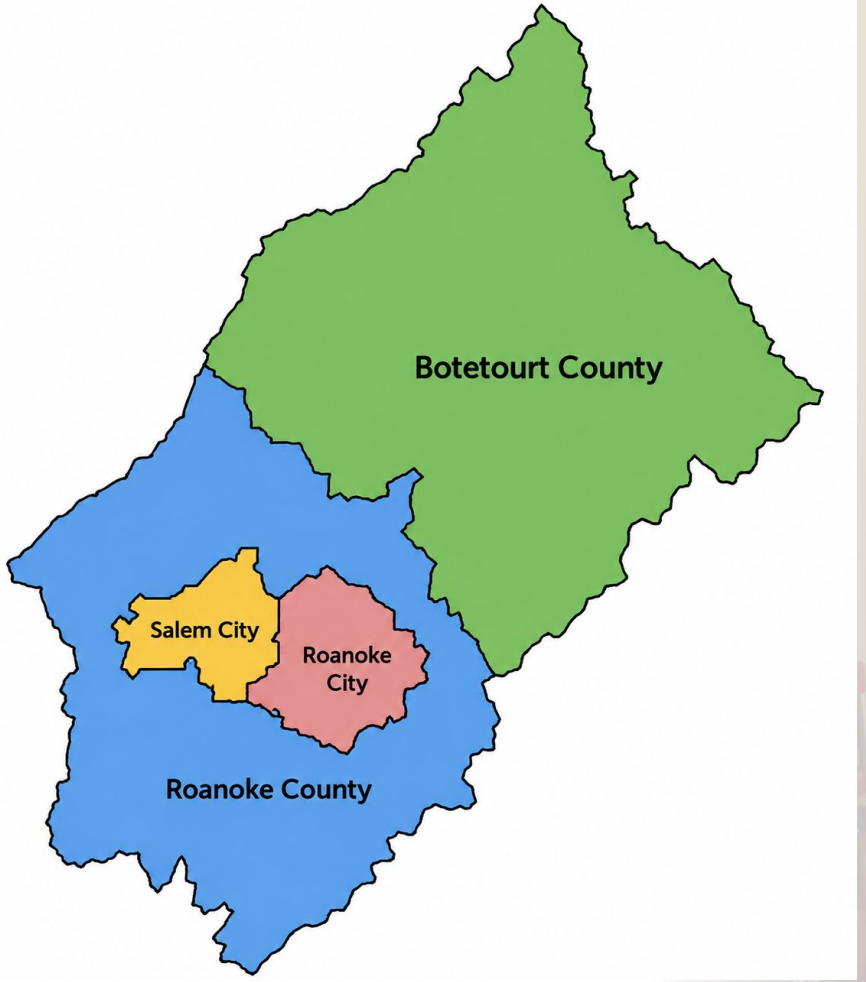
- Provide Intensive YRA/RA Career-Focused Opportunities
- Meet Local Workforce Development Needs
- Provide a Single Source of Information for B&I

Goal #3 – Inter-School Division Collaboration

Collaboration Promotes

- A large pool of applicants
- Provides equity of access
- A higher likelihood of B&I involvement

Goal #3 – Inter-School Division Collaboration



How Do We Collaborate?

- Regional Team Meetings
- Promotion – Booklet, posters, emails, etc.
- Events – Showcase and Signing/Recognition Event
- Timeline

When Do We Collaborate?

Recruitment Timeline

- Now - December - Companies register with VDOLI and let schools system(s) know how many apprentices they anticipate taking and in what occupational area(s).

- January (prior to Showcase) – Companies participate in a 15-minute virtual presentation about what to expect at each point of the timeline.

- Late January (snow date early February), Regional RA Sponsor Showcase – located at a large central community space (light refreshments served).

- By late February – Sponsor companies conduct parent/student information meetings at their choice of dates/times. Students apply to selected companies following information meeting(s).

- Month of March – Sponsor companies conduct interviews of students

2023 Showcase

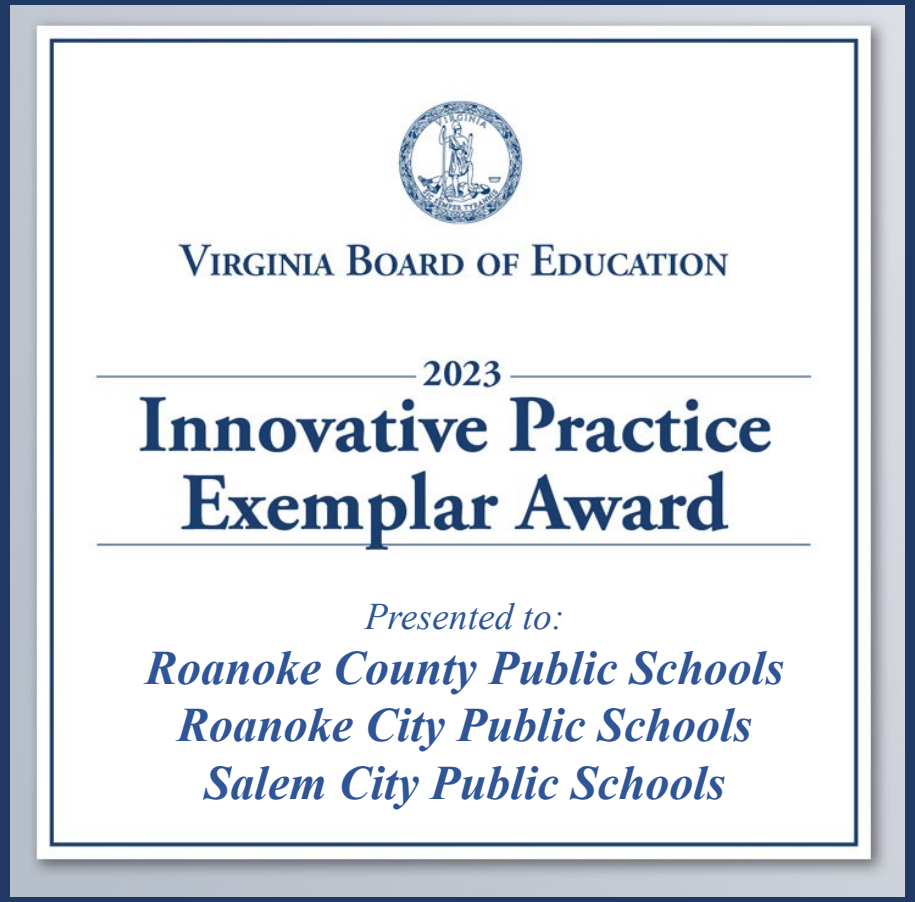
When Do We Collaborate?

Recruitment Timeline

- End of March – Companies participate in a 15-minute virtual presentation about next steps.
- By mid-April - Deadline for Sponsor companies to notify students/parents and schools of selection(s)
- By early May – School counseling staff works with student schedules to maximize time for student at their sponsor business. Planning considers company needs. This check is also used to ensure selected students are on track to graduate.
- Early May – Registered Apprenticeship Signing Day event

2023 Signing Event

This collaboration has brought attention...



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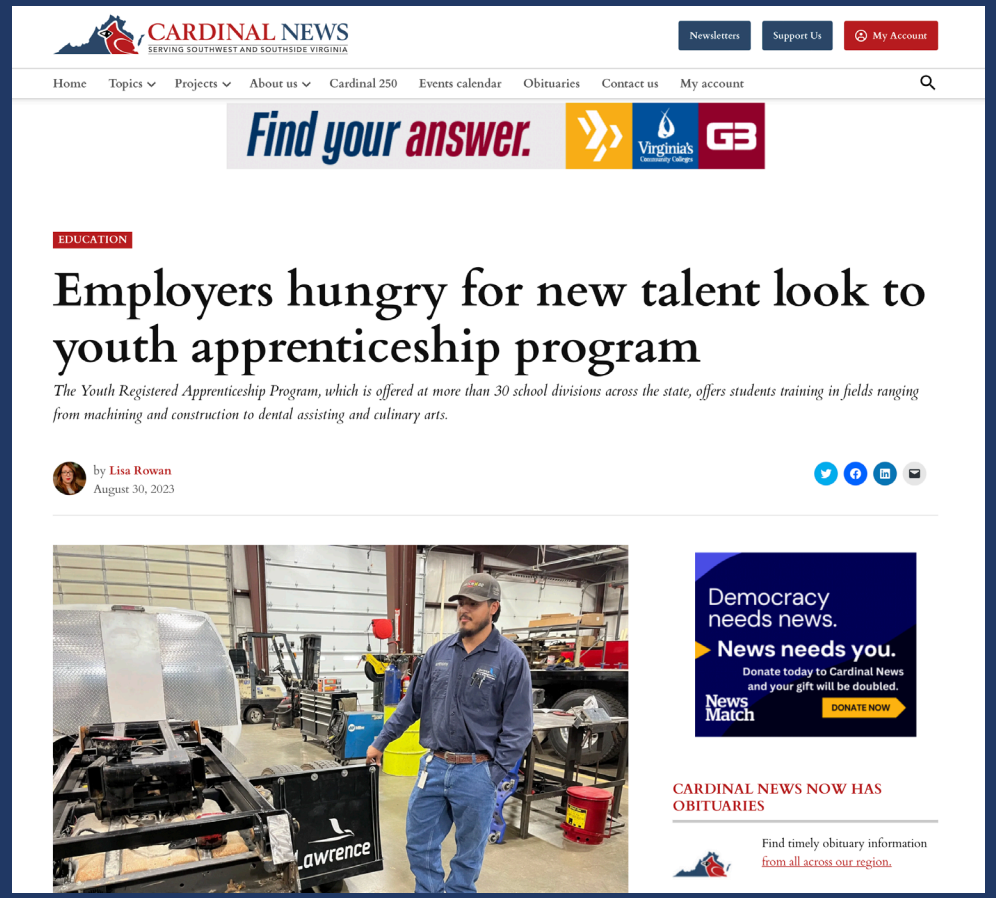

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EDUCATION

Employers hungry for new talent look to youth apprenticeship program

The Youth Registered Apprenticeship Program, which is offered at more than 30 school divisions across the state, offers students training in fields ranging from machining and construction to dental assisting and culinary arts.

by Lisa Rowan
August 30, 2023

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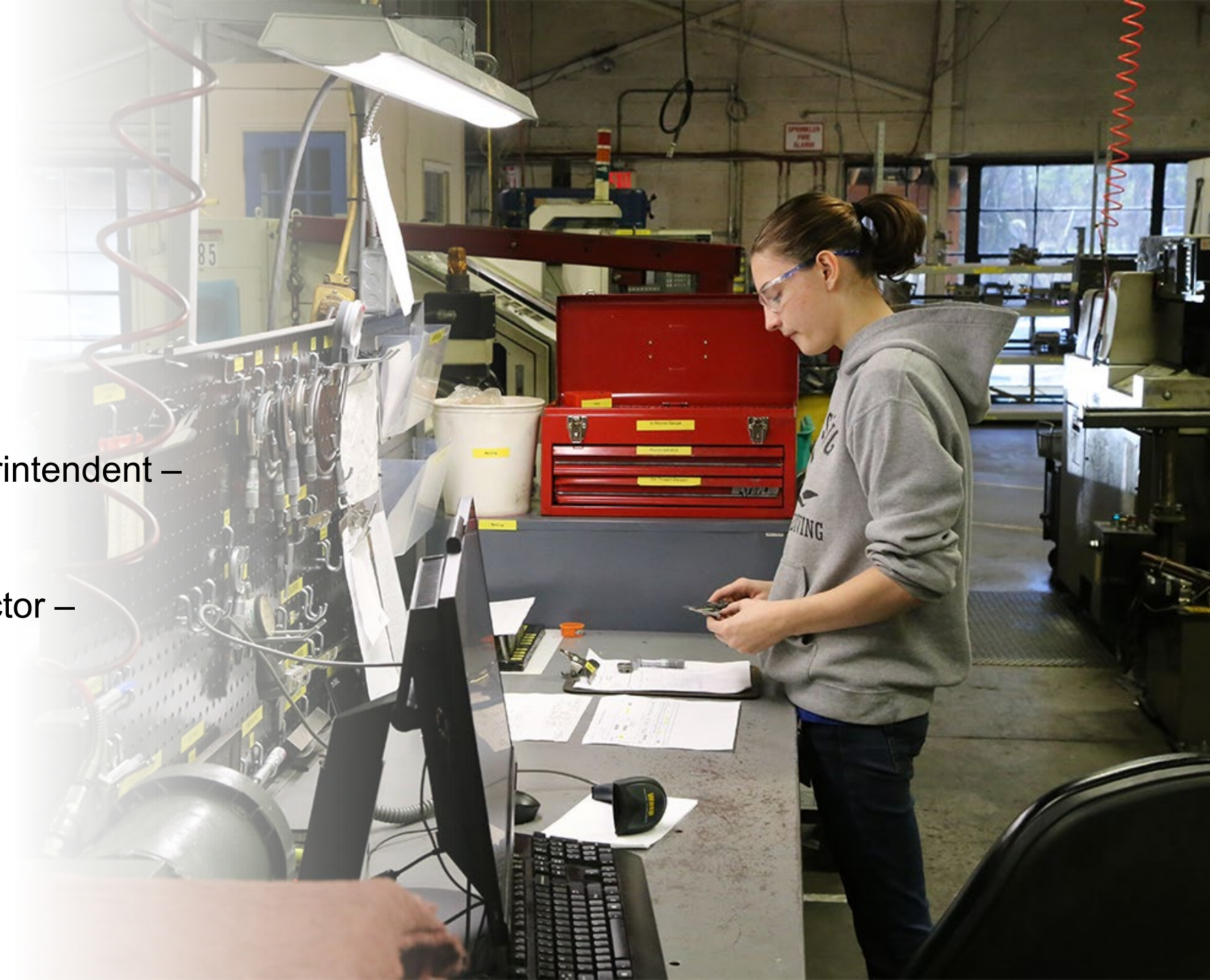
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