



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

**DATE:** February 2, 2018  
**TO:** Division Superintendents  
**FROM:** Steven M. Constantino, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**SUBJECT:** **Symposium on Strengthening the Pipeline from School to Work: Private Sector and School Partnerships March 8, 2018**

On behalf of the Virginia Department of Education, I am pleased to extend an invitation to all school division leaders to attend George Mason University's Schar School of Policy and Government, the College of Education and Human Development, and Mason's Center for Regional Analysis' *Symposium on Strengthening the Pipeline from School to Work: Private Sector and School Partnerships* taking place on **March 8 from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.** The symposium will be held at George Mason University's Founders Hall Auditorium, 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201.

In response to a changing economy, many states—including Virginia—now expect their public schools to offer students real world experience before they enter the workforce. As a result, schools must now partner with their business community to create work-based learning opportunities. This symposium will bring business and school leaders together to discuss rigorous strategies for establishing and growing these partnerships.

*Former Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will deliver the keynote address.*

Other panelists include:

- **Anne Holton**; *former Virginia Secretary of Education and visiting professor of education policy at GMU*
- **Jeffery Smith**; *Superintendent, Hampton City Schools and Champion of the Academies of Hampton*
- **Mary Ann Pacelli**; *National Institute of Standards and Technology, Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership*
- **Monica Callahan**; *ChamberRVA*
- **Steve Constantino**; *Acting Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction*

[Registration](#) is \$25 per person and includes lunch. Space is limited so please register early.

This symposium is organized with support from the Virginia Department of Education and Jobs for the Future. For additional information and to view the agenda, please visit the [event website](#). For questions, contact Dr. Mark White via email at [mwhite34@gmu.edu](mailto:mwhite34@gmu.edu).

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