



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

January 20, 2017

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Education Partnership Planning Grants to Strengthen Partnerships between K-12 and Higher Education

Coming off of the success of the [Affordable Pathways Partnership Grant](#), a second round of grants under the Fund for Innovation and Excellence was recently announced. The Fund was created last year by the legislature in order to (1) stimulate collaborations among public school divisions, community colleges and universities and to expand affordable student pathways and (2) pursue shared services and other efficiency initiatives at colleges and universities that lead to measurable cost reductions. This grant opportunity targets the first activity of supporting student pathways and collaboration.

Grants awarded through this opportunity will fund planning activities (not program implementation) that target the establishment and expansion of effective partnerships between higher education and secondary schools/divisions to help bridge the high school-to-college underrepresented student enrollment and completion gaps.

- Grant Opened: December 15, 2016
- Grant Application Deadline: February 27, 2017
- Grant Performance Period: April 15, 2016 – April 14, 2017

Visit <http://www.schev.edu/index/institutional/grants/affordable-pathways> for application materials and additional grant details. Please direct questions regarding grant application submission to Paula Robinson, Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, by email at PaulaRobinson@schev.edu, or by telephone at (804) 225-2612.

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