



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

October 21, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Announcing Professional Development on Life After High School:
 Navigating Education, Career, and Debt**

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to announce professional development opportunities to assist middle and high school teachers and counselors help students prepare for and make informed decisions around education, career, and debt. They are provided, at no charge, by the Virginia Council on Economic Education (VCEE) and affiliated university-based centers for economic education with financial support from the [Fund for Teaching Excellence](#) and State Farm. The schedule includes:

Dates	Times	Location
November 15, 2016	4-7 p.m.	Virginia Commonwealth University
November 17, 2016	4:30-7:30 p.m.	University of Mary Washington – Stafford Campus
December 7, 2016	4-8 p.m.	George Mason University (Alexandria)
December 16, 2016	8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Old Dominion University – VA Beach Campus
January 3, 2017	1-4 p.m.	University of Virginia's College at Wise
February 8, 2017	3:34-5:45 p.m.	James Madison University
February 14, 2017	8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.	Virginia Tech
March 16, 2017	8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Lynchburg College

A full schedule is on [VCEE's website under Teacher Workshops](#), search under the topic: Life After High School.

The workshops and a list of resources ([Attachment A](#)) will assist teachers to help their students make informed decisions around:

- decision-making skills: setting goals and making choices. Using decision-making models to weigh the costs and benefits and tradeoffs around choices;
- investing in yourself;
- choosing a path post graduation: college, another education avenue, or career;

- choosing a college and a major;
- paying for higher education—loans, grants, and scholarships—what to consider and how to apply;
- managing money; and controlling debt.

For more information or to discuss the possibility of scheduling a workshop for your teachers, contact Sarah Hopkins Finley, Director of Programs, VCEE at shfinley@vcu.edu or by telephone at (804) 827-1211.

SRS/LBH/aab

Attachments:

- A. [Life After High School: Navigating Education, Career, and Debt Classroom Resource for Middle and High School Students](#) (PDF)