Highlights from the *Architecture and Construction in Virginia* Career Cluster Brief

The pace of activity in architecture and construction in Virginia is picking up after the blows dealt by the recent recession. By 2020, construction, specifically, is forecast to grow by about 24 percent over 2010 levels. As a result, more than three quarters of Virginia construction employers consider preparing the next generation of skilled construction workers a top legislative priority.

These facts, along with other information and data, may be found in the recently-released Career Cluster Brief, *Architecture and Construction in Virginia.*

ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION IN VIRGINIA

Trends in Virginia's Architecture and Construction industry include historic preservation, the rise of green and energy efficient construction, and a general resurgence of investment after the recent recession. For example:

- One quarter of Virginia contractors expect the demand for green or energy efficient construction to increase in the next year.
- Multifamily housing construction is on the rise in Virginia, particularly in and around urban areas (suburban Richmond, downtown Roanoke, and in Northern Virginia around the expanding Silver Line Metro).
- Last year's transportation funding bill is expected to direct more than $4 billion into transportation construction and repair over the next six years.

EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

- About one in 12 Virginians holds a job related to Architecture and Construction.
- Approximately 375,000 jobs are expected across the entire cluster by the end of the decade.
- Though formal educational attainment for most jobs in Architecture and Construction is below the post-secondary level, 64% of the careers require preparation beyond secondary education, such as on-the-job training.
- It is estimated that specific investment in preservation and rehabilitation has contributed nearly $4 billion to the Commonwealth's economy.

TECHNOLOGY AND ARCHITECTURE & CONSTRUCTION

Careers in Architecture and Construction are becoming increasingly reliant on technology. Tech trends include:

- Growth of **"big data"** in engineering, design, and building modeling,
- Related application of **building information management** software to model and design projects at a distance, and
- Increasing use **of three-dimensional (3D) printing** for prefabricating building components.