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RVA Collab
Partnering for the Future of Work

chamber **RVA** SERVING THE RICHMOND REGION **RVA NOW** **VCU**

RVA Collab is the new identity of the RVA-VTOP program team.



MONTHLY DISCUSSIONS

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discussion for these calls to increase conversation and active collaboration surrounding the issue of Richmond talent retention and increasing quality, paid, and equitable internship opportunities within the region.

If there are particular topics of conversation you would like to see covered in these meetings, please let us know by filling out [our brief online form](#).

QA COMMONS GRANT APPLICATION PROJECTED TO OPEN EARLY MARCH

For our community college partners, the QA Commons is raising awareness of a soon-to-be-released Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration grant.

The Strengthening Community Colleges Training Program (SCC2) will provide up to 15 total awards, ranging from \$1.5M - \$5M each.

The grant's purpose is to increase the capacity and responsiveness of community colleges to:

- Address identified equity gaps
- Meet the skill development needs of employers in in-demand industries and career pathways
- Meet the skill development needs of under-served and underrepresented workers

Applications are expected to open in early March, and can be submitted through [this link](#).

This is a great opportunity for all of our community college partners in the region and I hope that each of you can get an opportunity to apply.

INTERNSHIP WORKSHOP ON MARCH 22

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VCU, Chamber RVA, and RVA NOW have partnered to host an Internship Workshop for organizations in the Richmond region on March 22, 2022. Keep an eye out for formal invitations in the coming week.

For further information or questions regarding the event, please contact Andrew Knight at Chamber RVA: Andrew.knight@chamberrva.com

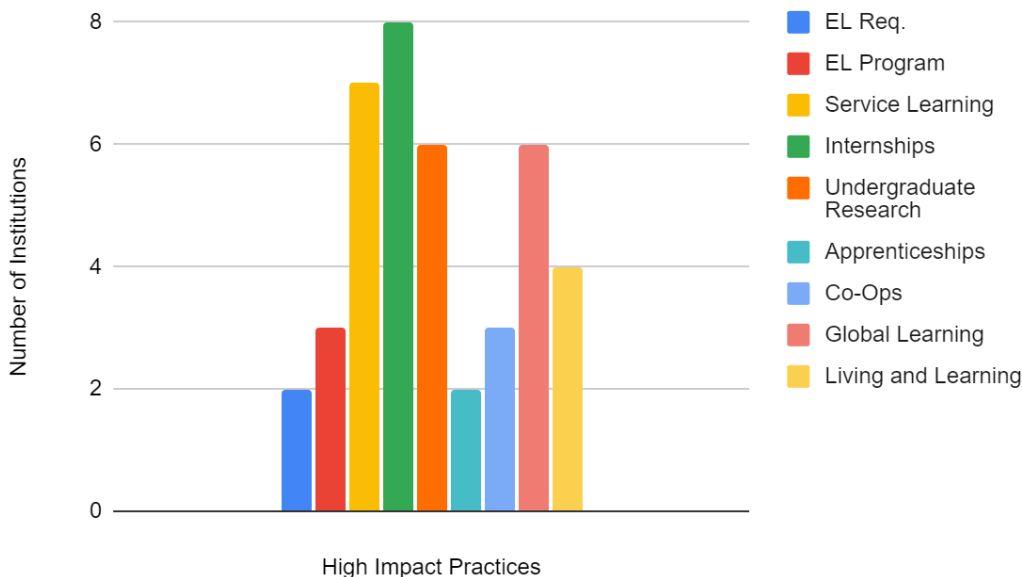


HEI IMPACT PRACTICES INVENTORY UPDATE

We have inventoried 16 general categories and 9 high impact practices, which connect students to employers or prepare students for the workforce, at our eight higher education partners in the greater Richmond region. All eight of our HEI partners have readily accessible support services for connecting students directly to internships, and 75% have career preparatory courses or programs which help students develop the transferable skills which businesses value highly in new employees. We are actively holding focus groups with our HEI partners to discuss our inventory and best practices. So far we have met with

If you have not participated in one of these focus groups please reach out to Sean Walden (swalden2@vcu.edu) to get further information.

Number of Institutions Utilizing Each High Impact Practice



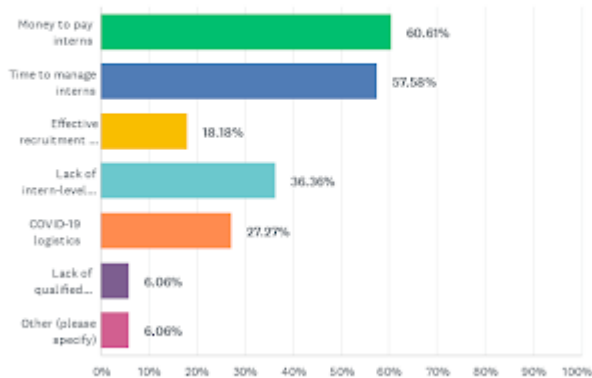
EMPLOYER SURVEY AND INVENTORY UPDATES

Over the past month, we sent out an employer-focused internship survey to understand and inventory the current internship programs offered in the region and the barriers organizations face in offering them. We received over 116 responses from employers from a range of industries. Some interesting findings of the survey showed that the top reason for hiring interns are: 1. Help managing projects and day-to-day work, and 2. Using interns as a source for new ideas and different perspectives, while the largest barriers standing in the way of offering internships are 1. Money to pay interns and 2. Time to manage interns.

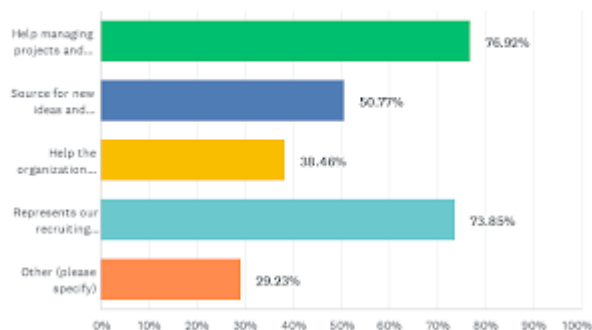
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Q8 What are your needs for hiring interns?



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