

# BizNews



## Virginia Western breaks ground to begin construction on new STEM Facility

*The \$30-million-plus project will create modern learning environment to train region's workforce*



Virginia Western Community College held a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, July 25 to commemorate the start of construction on the college's new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Facility. President Robert H. Sandel delivered comments related to the important role the new facility will play in developing the region's workforce.

"Now more than ever, the Roanoke Region is poised for economic growth in STEM and healthcare-related industries," Sandel said. "This modern learning environment will give our students the technological tools and hands-on training to become leaders in the workforce and drive continued growth."

Virginia Western's new STEM facility will be larger than 72,000-square feet, making it the largest building on campus, and feature engineering fabrication, mechatronics, computer, organic chemistry and micro biology labs along with new classrooms to promote collaborative and interactive STEM learning. Construction on the \$30-million plus project will begin before Fall Semester 2017 and be completed by Spring Semester 2019.

Speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony included: Dr. Sandel; Anita Price, Vice Mayor of Roanoke City; Jim McAden, Chair of the Virginia Western Local Advisory Board; Dr. Charles Steger, Chair of the Virginia Western Educational Foundation Board; and Amy White, Virginia Western Dean of STEM.

"We are committed to preparing the students and citizens of the Roanoke Region to not only live, but to thrive, in this new technological world," White said. "We want to engage our community and help them to embrace the promise of technology. You have to just look around briefly, or turn on the news momentarily, to realize that our world has many problems. We believe the solutions to these problems lie within our students and this building will be a place where those solutions are inspired and generated."

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## Passenger Growth Continues at ROA in 2017

*Year to date traffic up 2.75% as 55,526 passengers utilized the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport in June.*

The Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport posted a year over year increase in passengers utilizing the facility of 2.83% in June. Year to date traffic at the airport has increased 2.75% compared to 2016.

Tremendous community support, a slight increase in capacity, and better airline operational reliability all played roles in the continuation of passenger growth. June 2017 reflects a 2.83% growth over June 2016. June 2017 was the ninth month in the last ten that the airport has seen growth in traffic on a year over year basis. The airport is currently on track to have its busiest year since 2012.

“We are pleased to see this positive trend continue into 2017,” stated Timothy T. Bradshaw, A.A.E., executive director of the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission. “The demand of passengers utilizing the airport is a critical factor when speaking with airlines regarding increasing air service to our market. We appreciate our passengers choosing to fly ROA.”

The Commission continually works with the airlines to improve reliability, fares and equipment serving this region. This has played a significant role in the increase of passengers using this facility. In addition, the commission has invested resources to promote the services available at ROA and thanks our customers for choosing to fly ROA.

The Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport is the primary airport for Virginia’s Blue Ridge. ROA moves over 600,000 passengers per year via 4 airlines (American Airlines, Delta Airlines, United Airlines, and Allegiant Air) with nonstop service to 6 (Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, New York LaGuardia, Philadelphia, and Washington Dulles) hub cities as well as weekly flights to Orlando Sanford International Airport and St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport.

To learn more, please visit [www.flyroa.com](http://www.flyroa.com).

## Featured BizLink

**25 U.S. Cities That Millennials Can Afford — and Actually Want to Live In**  
<https://www.thepennyhoarder.com/life/best-cities-for-millennials/>

*Alex Mahadevan of The Penny Hoarder writes...*

Forget San Francisco, Washington D.C. and New York City.

This is a list for the rest of us twenty- and thirtysomethings who can’t afford to spend \$2,500/mo. to live in a closet in Bushwick.

The Penny Hoarder has developed a definitive list of the top 25 coolest and most affordable cities for millennials. It’s based on a rigorous analysis of housing and local price data, economic statistics and something called a Coffee Fanatic Score. Yes, you read that right. (Thanks SmartAsset!)

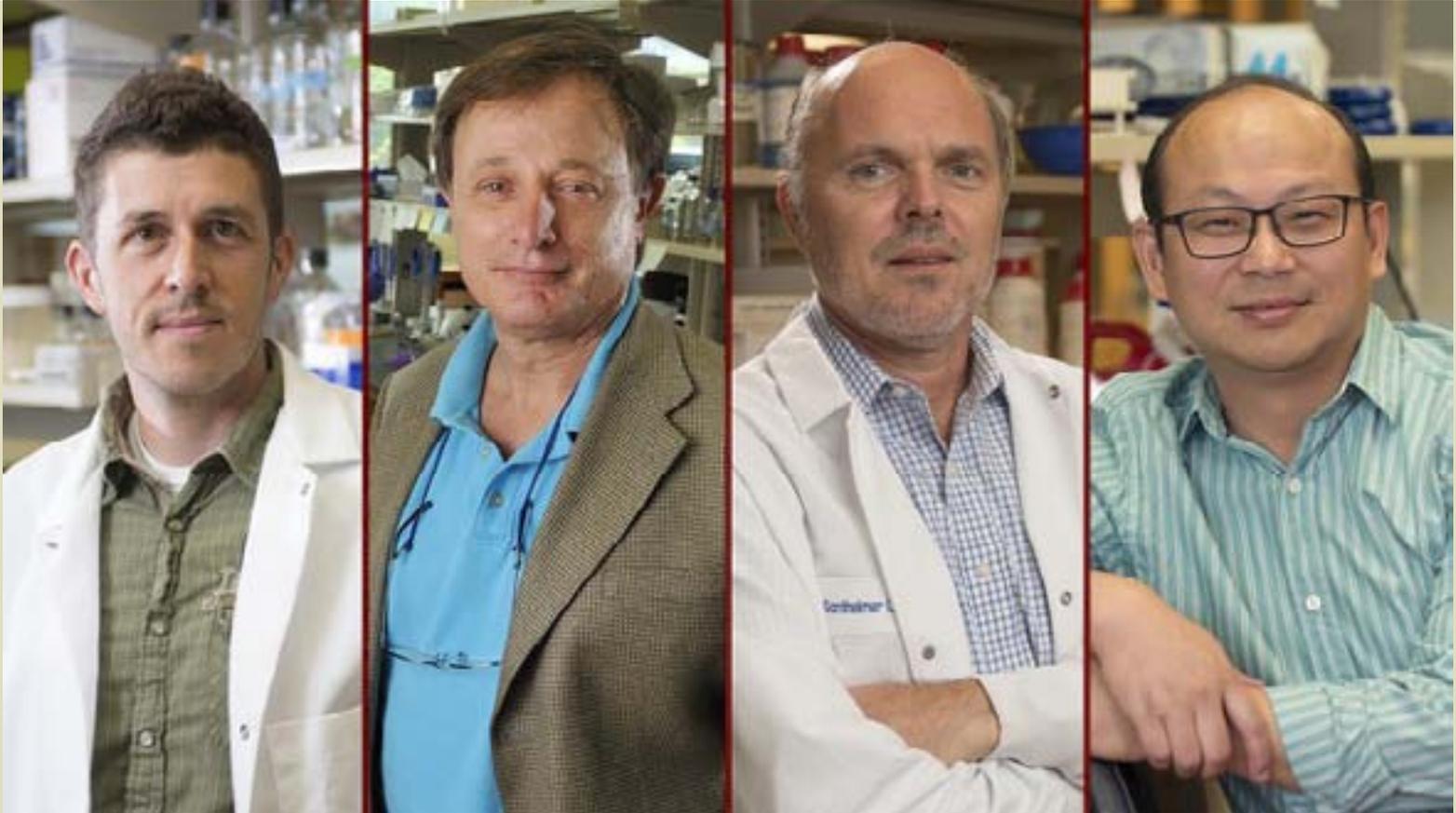
You probably haven’t seen many of these cities on “Top Millennial City” lists before, and that’s for good reason.

These are cities where young people crippled with student loan debt can actually find work and afford a one-bedroom apartment, but also find a new brewery or wine bar on weekends. Their millennial populations are growing — or already sizable — and they tend to be better for walking or biking to work.

Did our city make the list? Take a look and see what you find!!

## Research in Roanoke ~

### Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute teams converge on strategies to defeat McCain's form of brain cancer



*Samy Lamouille, Rob Gourdie, Harald Sontheimer, and Zhi Sheng [from left] have well-established research programs into the type of cancer recently diagnosed in U.S. Senator John McCain.*

Research teams at the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute from three colleges — Engineering, Science, and Veterinary Medicine — are developing new approaches to treat glioblastoma, the aggressive form of brain cancer recently diagnosed in U.S. Sen. John McCain.

About half of glioblastoma patients die within the first 12 to 18 months of diagnosis, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

“Overall, Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute is positioned to have important impact in developing innovative therapies for treating glioblastoma,” said Michael J. Friedlander, founding executive director of the research institute and vice president for health sciences and technology at Virginia Tech. “With complementary research approaches in several laboratories here, we are committed to bringing cutting-edge science to bear on this devastating disorder that has evaded substantial progress for too long.”

The institute has invested resources and recruited top talent to focus on the challenge of brain cancer, Friedlander said.

“Although the prevalence of glioblastoma is not as great as several other cancers, the lack of good therapeutic options is a major challenge and one in which the research institute with its strengths in brain research, cell and structural biology, and focus on translational science can make a difference — and we plan to do so,” Friedlander said.

## Research in Roanoke ~ Continued from Page 3

Researchers at the institute attacking the problem include Rob Gourdie, Harald Sontheimer, Zhi Sheng, and Samy Lamouille.

Gourdie is the Commonwealth Eminent Scholar of Regenerative Medicine and professor of biomedical engineering and mechanics in the College of Engineering; Sontheimer is the I.D. Wilson Chair and professor of neuroscience, and executive director of the School of Neuroscience in the College of Science; Sheng is an assistant professor of biomedical science and pathobiology in the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine; and Lamouille is a research assistant professor at the VTCRI.

Gourdie, who directs the VTCRI Center for Heart and Regenerative Medicine Research, and Lamouille have taken an approach to target cancer stem cells that form the seeds of new tumors in glioblastoma, using a novel compound called a JM peptide that targets the molecules forming the bridges between neighboring glioblastoma cells.

The work already has led to a new company, Acomhal Research, based in the new Regional Acceleration and Mentoring Program (RAMP) building in Roanoke, Virginia.

In 2015, the research institute established the Center for Glial Biology in Health, Disease, and Cancer to tackle many of the brain disorders where glial cells play a central role, including the urgent challenge to develop new, effective therapies for glioblastoma.

Sontheimer, the director of the center, and his team are taking an innovative approach to personalized cancer medicine by evaluating the effectiveness of an FDA-approved drug sulfasalazine to target a molecular transport process that is particularly highly expressed in some patients' glioblastomas to prevent further brain damage due to the tumor destroying neighboring brain tissue through a process called excitotoxicity. The drug is routinely used for another purpose — to treat inflammatory bowel disease. In preclinical studies, tumor-bearing mice treated with sulfasalazine twice daily showed a reduction in seizures and slowed tumor growth.

Moreover, these tumors often cause seizures and kill surrounding brain tissue through the release of toxic glutamate. In a clinical pilot trial with nine patients who received acute doses of sulfasalazine while being imaged for glutamate, results showed sulfasalazine was able to inhibit toxic glutamate release from the tumor.

As a result, together with the Wake Forest Baptist Health's Comprehensive Cancer Center in North Carolina, researchers have begun a clinical trial to treat patients with sulfasalazine in conjunction with the chemotherapeutic temozolomide and radiation in hopes to slow tumor growth. Sheng, Gourdie and Lamouille, using glioblastoma stem cells isolated from freshly obtained human tumors in collaboration with neurosurgeon Gary Simonds' team at Carilion Clinic, discovered stem cells isolated from patient tissues could potentially be used to target glioblastoma.

They focused on the molecular substrates of the cellular junctions between glioblastoma cells to determine if this might re-sensitize the cancerous cells to treatment with temozolomide. This work has led to a clinical trial to treat glioblastoma in dogs in collaboration with John Rossmeisl, a professor of neurology and neurosurgery in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences in the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine.

"Our discovery shows different patients have different types of cancer stem cells, and those cancer stem cells respond to therapies differently," Sheng said. "It would be great for these patients if we could start by moving the clock, even just a little bit, and give them even a little more time."

In a study in the journal *Oncotarget*, the Sheng team analyzed levels of messenger RNA from stem cells isolated from individual glioblastoma tumor specimens obtained through the division of neurosurgery in the Department of Surgery at Carilion Clinic.

"There are cases where a healthy 50-year-old wakes up with a headache and it turns out to be from a brain tumor," said Pratik Kanabur, a medical student researcher with the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine who conducted research under Sheng's supervision at the VTCRI. "Glioblastoma can strike any healthy person and limit their life expectancy to about a year, even with aggressive treatment. Patients desperately need better options, and we think one approach is to go to the source of the cancer, the glioblastoma stem cells." The researchers also used data from more than 500 glioblastoma patients contained in The Cancer Genome Atlas, a catalog of gene mutations responsible for cancer maintained by the National Cancer Institute and the National Human Genome Institute.

Collaborating with Sheng and Gourdie on the study were Kanabur, research associate Sujuan Guo, Simonds, the chief of neurosurgery at Carilion Clinic; Deborah Kelly, an associate professor at VTCRI; and Scott Verbridge, an assistant professor with the Virginia Tech-Wake Forest University School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences.

## Customer Service and Hospitality Training Workshops



VIRGINIA'S  
BLUE RIDGE®

Virginia's Blue Ridge in partnership with Virginia Western Community College have developed hospitality training core curriculum offering the workshops reflected below geared specifically for the travel and tourism industry. Several resources will be provided as well including Visitor's Guides, maps, Visitor Information Booklet and more. The cost to attend a workshop is \$49/per person.

Dates and locations for the workshops follow. If you have any questions, please contact Alexandra Chitwood by phone at (540) 342-6025, Ext. 126 or by email at [achitwood@visitvbr.com](mailto:achitwood@visitvbr.com) to obtain a registration link.

Thursday, August 17, 2017  
1:00 - 5:00 pm (12:45 pm registration)  
Virginia Western Community College  
Fralin Center for Science-Room HP208  
3091 Colonial Avenue, SW  
Roanoke, VA 24015

Thursday, September 14, 2017  
1:00 - 5:00 pm (12:45 pm registration)  
Virginia Western Community College  
Natural Science Center-Room N101  
3102 Colonial Avenue, SW  
Roanoke, VA 24015

### *ROANOKE INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION (RIMBA) AND VISIT VIRGINIA'S BLUE RIDGE (VBR) APPLY FOR MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDE CENTER DESIGNATION*

The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) has set criteria required for Virginia's Blue Ridge to become an official Ride Center. With only 26 IMBA Ride Centers existing in the world, Virginia's Blue Ridge would become an elite mountain bike destination. The trails at Carvins Cove and Mill Mountain have helped pioneer the pursuit for this ride center designation and continued investment in trail maintenance, amenities, and expansion provide present interest and the opportunity for future growth which is very exciting.

Economic studies show that mountain bikers travel in groups, likely spend at least two full days at a designated ride center, and over half spend time engaging in activities other than mountain biking.

As a metro-mountain destination, Roanoke in Virginia's Blue Ridge is poised for a Silver Level Ride Center designation. There are currently eleven Silver Level Ride Centers in the world with Bentonville, Arkansas the closest to Roanoke.

Results of Virginia's Blue Ridge application for IMBA designation will be announced in late Fall 2017.

To learn more about IMBA, visit <https://www.imba.com>.





## Creating Happy Employees Results in Better Outcomes



The CoLab has three bubbles on the wall up front above its logo. Inside these bubbles lie the words CREATE, COLLABORATE and INNOVATE. While these are the hallmarks of the new entrepreneurial ecosystem the CoLab is working to build, they also represent something else.

These words also describe what a supportive and energizing employer asks of its employees. Employees given the ability to create, collaborate and innovate will be much happier and, research suggests, more productive.

While the CoLab believes strongly in the need to build relationships and have fun, the bottom line is it wants to boost productivity. The philosophy of the CoLab just happens to be that employee happiness is an important component to making this happen. This is always difficult. But, it is especially difficult as we see remote working becoming more and more popular. Isolated remote workers

stuck in their homes may not have many distractions. But, working alone can be soul crushing. So, paradoxically, the side effect of being around other people while working is people are happier and get more work done.

Employee perks like food, coffee, fun working spaces and after-hours gatherings are often seen as ways to recruit and retain talent. However, research now suggests making people happy is also important because it creates more productive employees. Individual employees that are happy are 12% more productive and companies with happy employees outperform competitors by 20%. This number only grows for those employees in sales positions. Clearly there is something to be gained from having happy employees.

Now, obviously, we cannot give employees everything they want. But, listening to employees and caring about their happiness will result in better outcomes for all. It will be easier to hire and retain quality employees and, more importantly, they will be better assets to the company while there.

So, what can employers do? Well, providing free coffee and snacks is a start. But, according to research, there seem to be two things effective companies do well. These are...

1. Ensure employees feel supported and challenged. This is again where the “create, collaborate and innovate” mantra comes into play. If employees are invited to be, and rewarded for being an active participant in the company, they will give more. Meanwhile, employees not invited in are not likely to become invested in the company’s outcomes.
2. Employers can support interpersonal relationships among employees. Employees with friends at work are much more likely to commit to the company. These employees look forward to being at work; however, this is somewhat counterintuitive because it may result in more breaks and time around the proverbial water fountain. But, research says people wind up more productive at the end of the day. Meanwhile, if there is not a good workplace culture supporting friendships, employees will dread their time at work.

In the end, it is really companies which care about and listen to their employees performing the best. While an idea or product may be very profitable, it’s not enough. In order to maximize productivity, you must create a company culture which truly cares about the well-being of employees.

As more companies learn this behavior, we see places like the CoLab continue to grow. These spaces provide an environment to foster an innovative spirit and allows folks to be part of a community. This all results in more productivity. And, productivity is, of course, the goal.

To learn more about CoLab, visit [www.colabroanoke.com](http://www.colabroanoke.com) or contact Brad Stephens, Director by phone at 540.524.2702 or by email at [brad@colabroanoke.com](mailto:brad@colabroanoke.com).

At a little over eight weeks after its launch, the RIDE Solutions bikeshare program has seen incredible success – reaching its annual membership goals of 1,000 members and delivering over 2,600 trips in just two months.

The system launched this spring with 9 stations in the Roanoke Valley, focused primarily in the downtown area and surrounding neighborhoods. Since then, the 50 bikes in the system have been used 2,972 times by 1,174 members.

Use has been so popular that RIDE Solutions already has plans to expand the system in two phases this fall and winter – adding three stations in the Crystal Spring Village, Riverside Center, and at Soaring Ridge Craft Brewing this fall; and additional downtown station near the Market Building in February of 2018. The four new stations will bring an additional 20 bicycles into the bikeshare network.

### How Does It Work?

**For folks who have not yet had a chance to use the system, accessing it is easy:**

1. Download the Zagster app to your Android or iOS device, or create an account at [zagster.com/ridesolutions](http://zagster.com/ridesolutions).
2. Select your membership level:
  - Hourly: Rent bikes at any time for \$3 an hour
  - Annual: For \$40 a year, annual members can take unlimited trips, and the first hour of every trip is free.
  - Student: Students of Jefferson College of Health Sciences, Hollins University, Roanoke College, Virginia Western Community College, and the Virginia-Tech Carilion School of Medicine receive half-off the standard annual membership.
  - Resident: Residents of RGM Properties, Lofts at West Station, 416 Microfarms, Parkway 601, Allegheny Partners, and Garland Properties receive FREE membership as part of their residential amenities.
3. Approach any Zagster station in the system and select “Start riding” in your app, or text the bike number of your chosen bike to the phone number on the station sign.
4. Start riding! Return the bike to the same station or any station in the system.

It's that easy!

Zagster bikes are perfect for everything from a quick greenway ride during lunch, to an evening shopping trip, even catching a movie or concert on the weekend.

### Growing the Network

Bikeshare by RIDE Solutions is supported by local sponsors. Businesses who are interested in having a station located near them, property managers who want to offer free membership to their residents, and community-minded businesses interested in helping grow this fantastic amenity across the Roanoke Valley can get in touch with RIDE Solutions Director Jeremy Holmes at [jholmes@rvarc.org](mailto:jholmes@rvarc.org) to learn more.



## July a busy month with new openings in the City of Roanoke!



Upper Echelon Boutique  
Valley View Mall



Virginia Nonprofit Law  
Center, P.C.



Altus Chocolate



Sunbelt Business Brokers  
of Roanoke &  
Lynchburg



Alcova Mortgage



*(From l to r) Roanoke Mayor Sherman Lea; Roanoke Regional Chamber President & CEO Joyce Waugh; Home2 Suites Sales Manager Lora Mowbray; Roanoke Home2 Suites Owners Rita & Nick Patel; Kaylan Hospitality Vice President of Ops. & Sales Katherine O'Connell; and Home2 Suites team members Darion Andrews and Derrick Pettis cut ribbon at the July 13 Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting celebration.*

## Home2 Suites Opens at Valley View *First of this Hilton brand to open in the Commonwealth of Virginia*

Home2 Suites by Hilton has opened in Roanoke and is part of Hilton's industry-first All-Suites portfolio.

The new property located at 4830 Valley View Boulevard celebrated a grand opening on July 13, 2017 with a ribbon-cutting followed by a reception and hotel tours hosted by Home2 Suites team members.

The Hilton property offers spectacular views and convenient access to the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport, I-581 and I-81. With 121 suites, the extended-stay hotel suits every type of traveler offering contemporary studio and one-bedroom suites with fully equipped kitchens. The hotel is also pet-friendly, features a pool and workout facilities.

Roanoke Mayor Sherman Lea was on hand for the celebration event and thanked owners, Nick and Rita Patel for investing in the City of Roanoke and for their confidence in our workforce and growing tourism industry.

To learn more about Home2 Suites, visit <http://home2suites3.hilton.com>.

## Spotlight on Business ~

### BitterSweet Clothing and Accessories



BitterSweet Clothing and Accessories has officially opened its doors to the public!

This women's boutique has been in business for 16 years at its Charlottesville location, and it has now expanded to Roanoke's thriving Downtown Market. Located at 307 Market St SE, BitterSweet has been open since July 1st, but will have an official Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, August 17th at 11 am.

BitterSweet features an array of women's clothing, shoes, swimwear, candles, and various accessories. The store's owner, Paula Pekic, hopes that Bittersweet can be a place that offers something for everyone by consisting of clothing and accessories at various price points, as well as apparel for all occasions and ages. With new arrivals daily, the boutique maintains many of its classic styles while also keeping up with each season's latest trends.

While extending its hours, BitterSweet will also be hosting weekly "Late Night Shopping" events on Saturday evenings from 9 to 11 p.m. Paula claims, "The music is louder, the lights are dimmer, and the shopping is just as great!" These events will happen most Saturday nights and will occasionally offer promotional incentives for attending. In addition to Late Night Shopping, the boutique will offer private shopping events and personal shopping experiences. If you are interested in any of these occasions, or have questions, please email [paula@shopbittersweet.com](mailto:paula@shopbittersweet.com).

You can see some of the items the new boutique has to offer from the images reflected in this article. Stay in touch with events and promotions by following BitterSweet on Instagram, [@shopbittersweet](https://www.instagram.com/shopbittersweet), or Facebook, [@bittersweetmercantile](https://www.facebook.com/bittersweetmercantile). Likewise, you will soon be able to visit BitterSweet's website at [www.shopbittersweet.com](http://www.shopbittersweet.com), which is currently under construction due to an upcoming launch of their online shopping website.



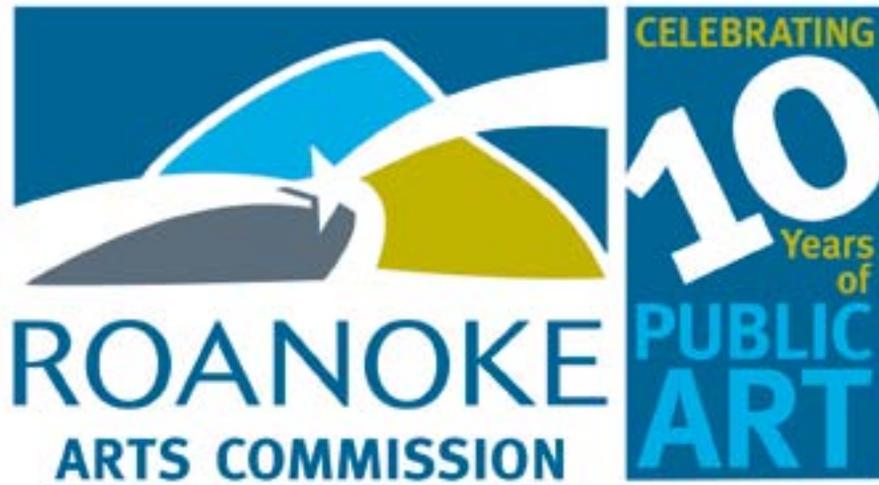
*Window of BitterSweet located at 307 Market Street, SE on the historic Roanoke City Market.*



## Roanoke Arts Commission Celebrates Ten Years of Public Art

Happy Tenth Birthday to the Roanoke Arts Commission!!

The City's Public Art Plan was adopted in 2006 and the first piece to be commissioned under the new Percent for Art Ordinance was installed in 2008. During the 2017-2018 fiscal year the Arts Commission will celebrate by highlighting a different work each month. The city hosts live videos from different public art pieces and holds contests throughout the month on Facebook and Instagram to generate interest in the city's art. Citizens are encouraged to visit art around the city and post photos to social media using #ArtInRoanoke. Check the Art in Roanoke Facebook Page and City of Roanoke Instagram page regularly for art and contest announcements and to win fabulous prizes through July, 2018!



The first prize was given away the week of June 12, 2017 and was a family membership to the Pinball Museum at Center in the Square. The following week a \$50 Downtown Roanoke shopping pass was awarded to a lucky someone posting their photo on Instagram next to a piece of public art from the new City on the Move installation in Elmwood Park. Other prizes include tickets, passes and memberships to many of the arts and cultural attractions in the city.

Be sure to visit our wonderful public art and post your pictures to be part of the winnings in celebration of this commemorative year!

## Local Retailer Moves to Next Chapter

*F. Geoffrey Ltd. meets clients one-on-one at new location*

Geoff Jennings, owner of F. Geoffrey Ltd. is pleased to announce he has downsized once more and moved to a new location to accept clients by appointment only.

Jennings owned the longtime local family retail store featuring estate items, fine jewelry and gifts. He closed the downtown location of Frank L. Moose Jewelers in 2010 to ease into semi-retirement, opening a smaller shop with limited hours in the Grandin Village. The new location of F. Geoffrey Ltd. is at Townside Festival located at 3700 Franklin Road, Suite 202.

"I am one step closer to retirement at this new location and look forward to continuing relationships with former Frank L. Moose customers, and building relationships with new customers in Virginia's Blue Ridge, says Jennings. I do not want to totally retire as I love working with clients and appreciate my loyal customers. My main focus will be working with clients on special orders to create memorable occasions ."

Jennings describes his new space at Townside Festival as "professionally cozy where he can use his expertise while eliminating the overhead."

For more information or an appointment, please call Geoff at 540.580-6869 or email [info@fgeoffreyltd.com](mailto:info@fgeoffreyltd.com).



## TRAINING & EVENTS

### Virginia Western to provide Leadership Bootcamps in downtown Roanoke

*Monthly workshop to impart essential soft skills to advance in manufacturing, IT, healthcare industries*

Virginia Western Community College will offer a comprehensive one-day Leadership Bootcamp monthly beginning in April at the RAMP business accelerator in downtown Roanoke. The eight-hour workshop will be held the first Friday of each month, and will help individuals build important leadership skills such as team work, communication and soft skills, time management, emotional intelligence, the ability to build trust and generational divides.

“Business leaders around the Roanoke Region have indicated they want more opportunities for future leaders to build these type of skills, and this workshop will deliver,” said Milan Hayward, Vice President of Workforce Solutions at Virginia Western. “In our new classroom in the RAMP facility, individuals will gain essential soft skills they need to advance in an existing business or grow their own businesses as entrepreneurs.”

WHAT: Leadership Bootcamp

WHEN: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on the first Friday of each month

WHERE: RAMP business accelerator, Gill Memorial Building, 709 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, VA

COST: \$285 + \$99 in materials/books fees for assessments; class size limited to 20 students; registration required by the first of each month

SIGN UP: <http://www.viriniawestern.edu/ramp/index.php>

CONTACT: Samantha Steidle, Innovation Officer, at 540-857-6076 or [ssteidle@viriniawestern.edu](mailto:ssteidle@viriniawestern.edu).

As part of the workshop, participants will complete a team work cycle assessment to better understand the four phases and eight roles of a project cycle they prefer to work within. They will also complete a DISC assessment to discover and understand their behavioral style and how to become more effective in communicating and working with others.

With more than 12,000 students on the college’s main campus in Southwest Roanoke City, to our satellite locations at the Greenfield Education & Training Center in Daleville and the Franklin Center in Rocky Mount, Virginia Western Community College is committed to providing affordable, accessible, and quality educational opportunities and workforce training to meet individual, community, and global needs. To learn more, visit [www.viriniawestern.edu](http://www.viriniawestern.edu).

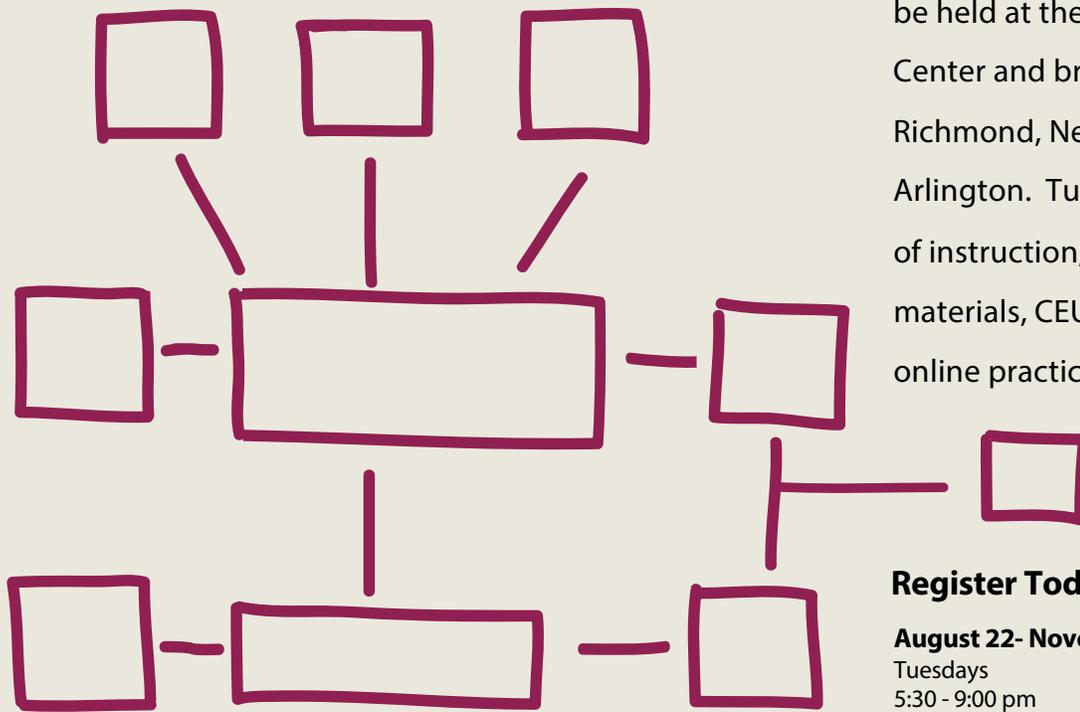
**VIRGINIA WESTERN**  
Celebrating 50 Years

**RAMP**  
THE ROANOKE-BLACKSBURG ACCELERATOR

# Project Management Certification Course

*Prepare for the PMP Certification Exam*

Learn the core competencies of project management in order to sit for the Project Management Institute PMP® certification exam. Classes will be held at the Virginia Tech Roanoke Center and broadcast to Abingdon, Richmond, Newport News, and Arlington. Tuition includes **35 hours** of instruction, textbooks, course materials, CEUs and access to the online practice test.



## Register Today

**August 22- November 7, 2017**

Tuesdays  
5:30 - 9:00 pm

[www.cpe.vt.edu/pmcentral/](http://www.cpe.vt.edu/pmcentral/)

### Locations:

#### Virginia Tech Roanoke Center

108 North Jefferson St. ~ Suite 701  
Roanoke, VA 24016

#### Virginia Tech Newport News Center

600 Thimble Shoals Blvd. ~ Suite 210  
Newport News, VA 23606

#### Virginia Tech Richmond Center

2810 North Parham Road  
Richmond, VA 23294

#### Virginia Tech Southwest Center- Abingdon

One Partnership Circle  
Abingdon, VA 24212

#### Virginia Tech Executive Briefing Center

900 North Glebe Road  
Arlington, VA 22203

**For more information:** Erin Burcham  
erinb1@vt.edu | 540-767-6145

## TRAINING & EVENTS



# VT KnowledgeWorks GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE

The VT KnowledgeWorks Global Student Entrepreneurship Challenge celebrates the energy and creativity of university students and their important contributions to the global economy, while encouraging them to develop their entrepreneurial ideas. Please join us as we observe elite university teams compete on a world stage and deliver 10-minute presentations for a \$25,000 grand prize and the VT KnowledgeWorks Global Challenge Trophy. The Challenge is in conjunction with the VT KnowledgeWorks Global Partnership Event, August 17-26, which offers a unique opportunity for global student teams and faculty to collaborate and initiate their personal global networks through learning, socialization, and friendly competition in Blacksburg and Roanoke, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., USA. Stay tuned to learn more about this year's 14 finalist teams and what universities they will be representing.

August 24, 2017 | 8:00 AM-4:00 PM  
Alumni Assembly Hall at the Holtzman Alumni Center  
The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center  
901 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061  
Tickets are FREE

### PRIZES

- \$10,000 - Plastics One Advanced Manufacturing Award for the outstanding tangible product
- \$10,000 - VT KnowledgeWorks Information Technology Award for the outstanding intangible product or service
- \$15,000 - An additional grand prize for one of the two teams that receive the Advanced Manufacturing Award or the Information Technology Award
- \$5,000 - People's Choice Award sponsored by Virginia Tech's Outreach and International Affairs

For more information, please visit [vtkwglobal.com](http://vtkwglobal.com).

## Commercial Property for Sale \$299,000



Approximately 1.09 acres located on Blue Hills Drive are available for sale and commercial development. The parcel (Lot 6) is located at the entrance to The Roanoke Centre for Industry and Technology (RCIT), just off of Orange Avenue (north side of Route 460). This Roanoke City Tax Parcel #7160119 is zoned Commercial-General (conditional), is level and suitable for office or commercial use. Public utilities are available and the listing agent can provide information regarding the Blue Hills Concept Plan.

RCIT is one of Western Virginia's premiere industrial parks with approximately 2,500 employees. The 440-acre park was initially developed by the City of Roanoke in 1980, and was expanded in 1992. RCIT is adjacent to US Route 460 and offers quick access to Interstate 581 (approximately 3.4 miles), Interstate 81 (approximately 6.9 miles), less than 4 miles to the Norfolk Southern Bulk Transfer Terminal, and 8 miles to Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport.

RCIT will be home to the new Deschutes Brewery, and currently houses Advance Auto Parts Distribution Center, AT&T, Creative Kids School, Eaton, Elizabeth Arden, FedEx Ground, Heritage Point/Roanoke Natural Foods Co-op, InfoSeal, Orvis, SEMCO, Virginia Utility Protective Services/VA811, and Wholesome Harvest Baking.

For more information, contact:  
Thomas S. Turner Property Listings  
Senior Associate Broker  
Hall Associates, Inc.  
112 Kirk Avenue, S.W.  
Roanoke, VA 24011  
(540) 857-5858 or [tsturner@rev.net](mailto:tsturner@rev.net)

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## Check it Out! City Owned Available Property

The City of Roanoke has a variety of properties, from existing buildings to buildable sites presently available for acquisition. The purchase of City property must be approved by Council; this requires potential buyers to submit a proposal for the property. For more information on available properties and the proposal process, please visit the links below:

<http://www.bizroanoke.com/Start,-Locate,-Expand/Sites-and-Buildings/Available-Sites.aspx>

<http://www.bizroanoke.com/Start,-Locate,-Expand/Sites-and-Buildings/Available-Buildings.aspx>



## Development Opportunity

### Property for Sale Located at 2903 Peters Creek Road, NW

### \$1,695,000



The City of Roanoke (owner) is accepting proposals for the purchase of three adjoining parcels located at 2903 Peters Creek Road, NW; Tax Map Numbers 6410104, 6410105 and 6410106. The combined acreage is approximately 11.8 acres, a portion of which is zoned Commercial Large Site (conditional) and the remaining portion is zoned Commercial General.

Conveniently located just minutes from Interstates I-581/220, and I-81, the site offers bi-directional access to Peters Creek Road, NW. Current traffic count is approximately 18,000 vehicles per day.

For complete property details please follow the link to the City of Roanoke's GIS system and use the Search/Query function by entering the following parcel ID Tax Numbers: 6410104, 6410105 and 6410106.

GIS link: <http://gisre.roanokeva.gov/>

#### How to Propose:

Proposals for the property must contain the following elements and be accompanied by the required signature form available on the Economic Development website under Available Properties, Peters Creek Road.

Proposals for the property must contain the following elements:

- Identification of the property and any adjacent property involved in your development
- Concept plan of the intended development including use, location and size of any buildings, number of units and a timeline for the completion of the project
- Description of the qualifications and experience of the proposer/developer
- Business Plan and Financial Plan for the project
- Offer amount for the property

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated for compatibility to the City of Roanoke's Comprehensive Plan and Neighborhood Plan. The proposer will be contacted after sufficient time for staff review.

Please submit your written proposal to:  
Rob Ledger, Manager, Department of Economic Development  
117 Church Avenue, SW Roanoke, VA 24011

Or submit by email to: [econdevl@roanokeva.gov](mailto:econdevl@roanokeva.gov)

For more information please contact the Department of Economic Development at 540-853-2715.

## Development Opportunity Roanoke Centre for Industry and Technology (RCIT) – Tract A



This site is located within the Roanoke Centre for Industry and Technology (RCIT) and consists of approximately 12 acres. The parcel is zoned Light Manufacturing (I-1) and includes certain covenants and restrictions. The Tax Map Number associated with this parcel is 7230103. The site is graded and ready for development.

The Roanoke Centre for Industry and Technology (RCIT) is one of Western Virginia's premiere industrial parks consisting of 440 acres. RCIT is adjacent to U.S. Route 460 and offers quick access to Interstate 581 (approximately 3.4 miles) and Interstate 81 (approximately 6.9 miles). RCIT is less than 4 miles from the Norfolk Southern Bulk Transfer Terminal and 8 miles from the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport.

Some of the major tenants calling RCIT home include: Advance Auto Parts, AT&T, Eaton, Elizabeth Arden, FedEx Ground, Orvis, Wholesome Harvest Baking and soon to be home of Deschutes Brewery.

For complete property details, please follow the link provided below to the City of Roanoke's GIS system and use the Search/Query function by entering the tax map number.

GIS link: <http://gisre.roanokeva.gov/>

Our GIS system also displays Program Incentives so please follow that link for a more comprehensive listing of potential incentives

### How to Propose:

Proposals for the property must contain the following elements and be accompanied by the required signature form available on the Economic Development website under Available Properties, Centre for Industry and Technology (RCIT) - Tract A.

Proposals for the property must contain the following elements:

- Identification of the property, and any adjacent properties, involved in your development.
- Concept plan outlining the intended development use, including: location and size of any buildings, number of units, and a timeline for the completion of the project.
- Description of the qualifications and experience of the proposer/developer.
- Business Plan and Financial Plan for the project.
- Proposed offer amount for the property.

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated for compatibility to the City of Roanoke's Comprehensive Plan and Neighborhood Plan. The proposer will be contacted after sufficient time for staff review.

Please submit your written proposal including the attached form on the next page to:

Rob Ledger, Manager, Department of Economic Development

117 Church Avenue, SW

Roanoke, VA 24011

Or by email to: [econdevl@roanokeva.gov](mailto:econdevl@roanokeva.gov)

For more information please contact the Department of Economic Development at 540-853-2715.