

Higher Education, Economic Development and Regional Partnerships

Governor's Commission on Higher Education
Reform, Investment and Innovation,

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Higher Education and the Knowledge Economy

- Emerging consensus about the crucial role of universities in promoting economic development
- It applies to all types of higher ed institutions- community colleges, 4 years, doctorals
- It applies across the public-private divide
- It applies to vastly different missions, from urban to land grant
- It applies globally, from Europe, to BRIC nations, to the Middle East

How Do Universities Promote Regional Economic Development

- Understand and utilize their own status as major economic players
 - Employers
 - Purchasers
 - Developers
 - Innovators and Incubators
 - Become strategic leaders in their community and region

How Do Universities Promote Regional Economic Development

- Building Social Capital
 - Service learning
 - K-12, higher ed. partnerships
 - Workforce development
 - Community capacity building
 - Intercultural communication
 - Higher education as the “trusted partner”

Examples

- The University of Pennsylvania and the transformation of West Philadelphia
- Reinvention of Land Grants- UW, UMinn, OSU
- Democracy's Colleges- Miami-Dade, Maricopa CC, NVCC
- The Cambridge Phenomenon
- The Middle East- Qatar, the Emirates

Lessons and Challenges for Virginia

- How do we measure and incentivize the promotion of regional economic development across institutions of higher ed (is there a role for Council on Virginia's Future, SCHEV, commission-inspired legislation?)
- How do we institutionalize the mission across universities?
- How do we disseminate the best models for universities, community/region, business collaboration?
- What are not only the "Best Practices" but the "Next Practices" that will help to transform regions?