Opportunity Inc. Hosts Annual Meeting & Workforce Innovation Awards

With more than 125 stakeholders assembled at the 2016 Annual Meeting and Workforce Innovation Awards, Shawn Avery, President & CEO of Opportunity Inc., shared accomplishments across the organization’s workforce development programs and services from the previous fiscal year. Attendees learned of OppInc.’s continued commitment to military personnel — with more than 1,000 veterans served at the One-Stop Workforce Center, and 124 veterans served through the LAUNCH Hampton Roads entrepreneurship program.

Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam, who has made workforce development in Virginia a priority during his term, presented the keynote address focused on state and local workforce development initiatives. He commended Opportunity Inc. for its efforts related to workforce development in Hampton Roads.

“Opportunity Inc. is leading the way in driving attainment of credentials to compete in the workforce, launching new incumbent worker programs driving jobs and business growth, supporting the state’s first cybersecurity registered apprenticeship, and aligning education and training at all levels to in-demand, regionally available jobs.”


Last year, the One-Stop Workforce Center provided services for 10,250 individual customers resulting in 581 credentials. As important, Opportunity Inc.’s Business Services supported 2,492 businesses and employers, with 41 participants receiving One-the-Job Training and 72 incumbent workers benefiting from upskill training and development.

The Annual Meeting also celebrated the success of the Youth Career Center, which connected with nearly 9,000 youth and young adults seeking employment and post-secondary opportunities.

Closing out the meeting, Opportunity Inc. recognized businesses, community organizations, and industry leaders for their commitment to workforce development and their impact on the Hampton Roads economy.

(Continued on Page 3)
Greetings! With a new season upon us, we are excited to share new updates that represent positive change in Opportunity Inc.’s delivery of programs and services in Hampton Roads. As you will read in this issue, we have leveraged new grants and forged strategic partnerships to increase opportunities for businesses and job seekers — with a specific focus on the emerging workforce and incumbent workers.

In August 2016, we secured a $25,000 grant from the Hampton Roads Community Foundation to enhance services and programs offered through our Youth Career Center. This award was especially timely, as it supported our efforts aimed at restructuring and relocating the Center to better assist the region’s emerging workforce with employment and post-secondary educational opportunities.

In addition, we have been increasingly focused on supporting small businesses — providing customized training and credentialing for incumbent workers in high-demand industries. As the recipient of a $150,000 incumbent worker grant, Opportunity Inc. is ensuring that we have a highly-skilled and educated workforce, equipped to meet the advanced needs of the 21st century jobs in our region.

In the coming months, we look to build on these organizational wins to further expand Opportunity Inc.’s footprint as the Regional Convener of Workforce Development, connecting talent to meaningful opportunities in Hampton Roads.

Sincerely,

William L. Nusbaum
Chair of the Board

Shawn Avery
President & CEO

Congratulations to the Opportunity Inc. Workforce Team

For 4 consecutive years, we have exceeded all federally mandated performance measures!

VA Association of Workforce Directors Receive V3 Award

Governor McAuliffe recently presented the V3 Commonwealth Award to the Virginia Association of Workforce Directors — comprised of 15 members, including Opportunity Inc.’s President and CEO, Shawn Avery. The award recognizes the organization's outstanding strategic contributions to the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program, which has hired over 18,000 veterans this year.

Opportunity Inc.
Welcomes New
Board Member,
Dr. Daniel Lufkin,
President of
Paul D. Camp
Community College

OpplInc. in the News! Check out the news feed on our website to view recent articles.

New Space...New Opportunities!

Opportunity Inc.’s Youth Career Center Relocates to Tidewater Community College

Opportunity Inc.’s Youth Career Center of Hampton Roads moved into a new space on the Virginia Beach Campus of Tidewater Community College on September 22 – while at the same time celebrating six years of programs and services for youth and young adults, ages 14 to 24, in Hampton Roads.

Since its inception, the Youth Career Center has served more than 25,000 youth through workplace readiness training, mentoring, post-secondary opportunities, career exploration, job preparation, and financial literacy education. The Center’s new location and partnership with TCC provides a strategic opportunity to expand the education and employment goals of students through enhanced training, programs, and services across Opportunity Inc.’s service region.

The Youth Career Center is now located in the Princess Anne Building (Suite A – Room 100A) at TCC’s Virginia Beach Campus.

For more information on Opportunity Inc.’s Youth Services, please visit myyouthcareercenter.org.

“Housing the Youth Career Center on our Virginia Beach Campus is another example of TCC and Opportunity Inc. collaborating successfully to power job growth in our region, in this case, for teens and young adults.”

- Dr. Edna Baehe-Kolovani, President, Tidewater Community College

Making the Grade

The Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education (VTC) Outreach Program aims to assist out-of-school youth attain their educational and employment goals. Donesha Wray entered the program with one goal in mind – to earn her GED. Working tirelessly with the support of her Outreach Program Counselor, Marie Mogensen, Donesha passed all four sections of the GED test! She serves as an inspiration for other participants, as she prepares to move forward on her career path toward a brighter future.

Established in 1973, the VTC collaborates with organizations, like Opportunity Inc.’s One-Stop Workforce Center, to provide in-depth educational counseling and assistance with financial aid applications, as well as weekly educational and career workshops.

(Continued from Page 1)

The Workforce Innovation Award Recipients include:

Workforce Champion Award: Jeff Ainslie, President of Finance and Operations, The Ainslie Group
Public Official Award: Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott
Business Award: SimIS (Portsmouth)
Educational Institution Award: ECPI University
Community Based Organization Award: Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education

Congratulations again to our 2016 award recipients!

Congressman Bobby Scott

“I am honored to have received the 2016 Workforce Innovation Award, and I thank Opportunity Inc. for working to ensure that the Hampton Roads workforce has access to critical job training opportunities and that employers have access to highly skilled workers.”

Workforce Innovation Award recipients Jeff Ainslie, Larry Dotolo of Virginia Tidewater Consortium, Mark Draylus of ECPI, Johnny Garcia of SimIS, and Congressman Bobby Scott (Not Pictured)
While regular, reliable information on people exiting the military in Hampton Roads (“military exits”) has proven surprisingly difficult to obtain, Opportunity Inc. has identified a valuable source of data — the National Crosswalk Service Center (NCSC), a federally-funded national clearinghouse for classification information about occupations, training programs, and industries.

From October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015, a total of 8,207 individuals — representing over 160 occupations — exited the military with plans to live in Hampton Roads. Given the large number of occupations, these numbers were aggregated by occupational group for this report. The top 10 occupational groups represent over 60% of total military separatees, with the majority falling into one of Opportunity Inc.’s industry cluster focus areas: Healthcare; Information Technology; Manufacturing; and Transportation, Warehousing & Distribution.

To view the full report, click the For Business tab on www.opp-inc.org.

**Allfirst Selected as First Recipient of Opportunity Inc.’s Incumbent Worker Grant**

In June 2016, Opportunity Inc., in partnership with Tidewater Community College, received a $150,000 grant to develop customized training for businesses to help support their incumbent workforce. The Hampton Roads Incumbent Worker Innovation Program provides employee training for small to medium-sized businesses in high-demand areas, such as manufacturing, energy, information, technology, cybersecurity, as well as construction trades.

Congratulations to Allfirst, LLC — the first recipient of the grant. Allfirst, a Suffolk-based industrial general contractor, will use the grant’s training to improve the welding skills of eight of its employees.

To learn more about how your company can take advantage of this program, please contact Steve Cook with our Business Services team at scook@ohhr.org.

**Congratulations to Our Award-Winning Team Members**

- **Andrea Harrell**
  Senior Director of Youth Initiatives and Community Affairs, received Inside Business' Top 40 Under 40 award for her leadership and service in the Hampton Roads Community.

- **Amanda Green**
  Youth Program Coordinator, was recognized for her Outstanding Contribution to the Workforce System at Virginia’s Community College System’s Workforce Professionals Academy Awards.

**About Opportunity Inc.**

Established by the Hampton Roads Workforce Development Board, Opportunity Inc. oversees workforce development programs for South and Western Hampton Roads. OppInc. provides strategic workforce development solutions designed to assist businesses in accessing qualified workers and jobseekers in search of suitable job openings and training opportunities to bolster their earning potential.

**AmericanJobCenter**

Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Opportunity Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

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**Stay Connected!**

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