



4-VA: A PRESENTATION TO THE STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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WELCOME TO 4-VA!

4-VA is a consortium of four universities in the Commonwealth of Virginia that are working together to realize Virginia's goals for higher education.



4-VA's MISSION

4-VA's mission is to promote inter-university collaborations that leverage the strengths of each partner university in order to accomplish much more than any individual university could achieve alone.



BACKGROUND

4-VA began in 2010 as a consortium of four universities:

- George Mason University
- James Madison University
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

to meet needs identified by the Governor's Higher Education Commission and his Jobs Commission



MANAGEMENT BOARD

4-VA's direction is set by a management board, comprised of:

- the four founding university presidents
- Virginia's Secretary of Education
- the Executive Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)
- Cisco's Senior Vice President



4-VA'S GOALS

- Decrease the cost of delivering instruction
- Expand access for all Virginians to programs preparing them for rewarding careers
- Increase research competitiveness
- Enhance the success rate of students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) courses and programs



ROLE OF TELEPRESENCE

- Physical facilities and technical staff
- Frequent high level meetings using highly immersive video conferencing technology
- Almost weekly strategy and operational meetings



FY 2012 PROJECTS

- Distance education degree completion program in Technology Innovation
- Summer STEM course redesign project focused on improving student success in STEM courses
- Collaborate on data visualization services, a summer HPC bootcamp for students, and techniques for managing research data



2012 PROJECTS, CONT.

- Course sharing
- Emporium projects that will lower the cost of delivering instruction and improve student success rates
- Work with MAT-P to design and implement a state-wide network backbone architecture



HOW CAN SCHEV FACILITATE/ACCELERATE CHANGE IN HIGHER EDUCATION?

- Program approval procedures designed for a less dynamic time are not suited to further the innovation demanded of higher education by the government and the public.
- Approval mode for programs is defensive in nature, attempting to protect the Commonwealth from programs that might be duplicative or prove expensive to maintain.
- SCHEV staff need to be empowered to foster innovation by being less focused on data about the past and more accepting of the risk that accompanies projections about the future.
- Underlying assumption should be that the heavy intellectual investment being made by the four universities will result in programs that will serve Virginians well into the future.

