

Shenandoah Valley technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, business, and networking resources: *Collaborate & connect*

Chambers of commerce in the Shenandoah Valley:

- County of Bath Chamber of Commerce; www.countyofbathchamber.org
- Front Royal Warren County Chamber of Commerce; www.frontroyalchamber.com
- Greater Augusta Regional Chamber of Commerce; www.augustava.com
- Harrisonburg Rockingham Chamber of Commerce; www.hrchamber.org
- Highland County Chamber of Commerce; www.highlandcounty.org
- Lexington, Buena Vista, & Rockbridge County Chamber of Commerce; www.lexrockchamber.com
- Luray and Page County Chamber of Commerce; www.luraypage.com/chamber-of-commerce
- Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce; www.shenandoahcountychamber.com
- Top of Virginia Regional Chamber of Commerce; www.regionalchamber.biz

Meet-Ups: Meetup is the world's largest network of local groups. Meetup makes it easy for anyone to organize a local group or find one of the thousands already meeting up face-to-face. More than 9,000 groups get together in local communities each day, each one with the goal of improving themselves or their communities. Meetup's mission is to revitalize local community and help people around the world self-organize. A sample of relevant ones for the S.V.:

<http://www.meetup.com/Staunton-Makerspace/>

<http://www.meetup.com/Girl-Develop-It-CentralVA/>

<http://www.meetup.com/Open-Source-Staunton/>

Virginia Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) are located all over VA; two of them in the Shenandoah Valley. The Virginia SBDC Network is the largest and most effective provider of customized counseling and education for small businesses in the Commonwealth. You can meet in private with a certified business analyst to discuss your specific issues. Or you can attend small-group trainings for in-depth presentations on critical management topics.

- **Lord Fairfax SBDC;** Corron Community Dev. Ctr, Ste 109; 173 Skirmisher Lane; Middletown, VA 22645-1745
540.868.7093 | <http://www.lfsbdc.org>
- **Shenandoah Valley SBDC;** 127 West Bruce Street; Harrisonburg, VA 22801; 540.568.3227
www.valleysbdc.org

Shenandoah Valley Innovation Coalition (SVIC): Education, government, and business leaders in the Shenandoah Valley are spurring a culture of innovation in the Valley. Established in 2012, SVIC meets monthly to share information, coordinate regional activities and events to foster entrepreneurship and innovation, and to collectively leverage our Valley resources to create long-term economic prosperity in the Shenandoah Valley. www.svic.biz

- Objectives:
 - Create a shared understanding of and commitment to innovation for healthy social and economic growth.
 - Improve access to capital for entrepreneurs.
 - Create a variety of collaborative spaces, resources & events, both physical and virtual.
 - Build a vibrant, diverse mentoring network.
 - Develop the capacity to attract, seed, and grow new and existing talent and business.

Members: Business Leaders - Cottonwood Realty, Interchange Group, Matchbox, Elk Logistics, Shentel; Entrepreneurs – Andy Harbick, Dennis Trissel, Ernie Didot, Kai Degner. Blue Ridge Community College; Eastern Mennonite University; ICE@JMU; Harrisonburg Economic Development; Harrisonburg Rockingham Chamber of Commerce; Harrisonburg City Public Schools; Rockingham County Economic Development; Shenandoah Valley Partnership; S.V. Small Business Development Center; Shenandoah Valley Technology Council; SRI; Staunton Economic Development and Community Fund

Are there add'l resources that should be mentioned? Please send us a note:

Shenandoah Valley Technology Council | www.svtc-va.org | info@svtc-va.org | 540.568.7882

Shenandoah Valley Partnership — The Shenandoah Valley Partnership (SVP) is the one-stop economic development resource for businesses seeking expansion or location in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. The Partnership works with local and state governments as well as the business community to develop an economic climate for business success. SVP is a public/private partnership providing marketing and business assistance for the Shenandoah Valley region. Through regional cooperation the SVP brings together business, government, and education leaders to promote new investment, strengthen existing business, and guide labor force development to ensure a healthy economic future for the region. www.shenandoah-valley.biz

Shenandoah Valley Technology Council (SVTC) — The SVTC is a non-profit membership organization for the Valley's **tech users and creators**. Members are entrepreneurs, innovators, companies, organizations, educational institutions, governments and municipalities (cities and counties). Membership is defined by the level of benefits received, and is not based on the number of employees. Members and non-members alike engage via events (9 luncheons a year; quarterly after-hours gatherings; a gala that highlights technology achievement; and members-only events at not-open-to-the-public locations), a LinkedIn group, and a weekly newsletter. The SVTC participates in many regional efforts and projects relating to technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship; and supports STEM related activities and teams in the Valley (e.g. with start-up reimbursement grants for *new* *FIRST* Lego League teams). www.svtc-va.org

Shenandoah Valley Workforce Investment Board (SVWIB): SVWIB operates five Valley Workforce Centers and directs numerous workforce initiatives partnering with business, education, economic development, and other community and faith-based organizations to thoroughly understand the current labor market and to develop innovative solutions to address broad regional workforce issues. Specific programs include Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs, Youth Programs, Valley OJT, and the Shenandoah Valley Energy Partnership. (Outplacement Assistance; Labor Market Information, Workforce Research; Post Job Openings; Workforce Training; Scholarships; On-the-Job Training Opportunities; Assist with Recruiting). <http://www.valleyworkforce.com/#services>

SourceLink Virginia: *SourceLink Virginia* is a project of the [Virginia Community Economic Network](#). This online portal is designed to connect aspiring, emerging, and established entrepreneurs to business assistance providers who can help them grow and succeed. *SourceLink Virginia* provides entrepreneurs with **free** and easy access to the resources they need- when they need it. SourceLink Virginia connects a large network of business assistance organizations who offer a wide variety of business-building services for small businesses and entrepreneurs. We facilitate the linking of these resource providers to one another and to established, emerging and start-up enterprises throughout the Commonwealth. www.sourcelinkvirginia.org

Waynesboro Area Learning and Technology Center: The Waynesboro Area Learning & Technology Center (W.A.L.T.) is a non-profit, offering technology training and development as an outreach initiative to the City of Waynesboro and surrounding rural counties. Our goal is to work with educators, businesses and community leaders in developing educational programs that encourage technology-enabled transformation that will support the local economy. A variety of services are offered that include basic to advanced training in Microsoft applications, e-learning tools, transitional education, career exploration and work-life skills development. <http://www.waltlearning.org/>

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Efforts, partnerships, projects by **educational institutions:**

James Madison University:

- **4-VA:** 4-VA is a collaborative partnership between six Virginia universities (GMU, JMU, ODU, UVA, VCU, VT) that is powered by 4 initiatives (collaborative research, course redesign, course sharing, and degree completion). Its mission is to promote collaborations that leverage the strengths of each partner university and improve efficiencies in higher education across the Commonwealth of Virginia. They carry out this mission by advocating unprecedented partnerships between faculty and departments to generate significant, innovative solutions to educational and real-world problems. Since 4-VA's inception, we've sponsored advancements in research, pilot courses, redesigned courses, shared courses, online programs, industry-focused adult degrees, new technologies, interventions, workshops, conferences and other programs.
More info: <https://4-va.org/about/>
- **Center for Entrepreneurship (in College of Business):** The Center for Entrepreneurship creates and promotes academic, scholarly and experiential activities related to entrepreneurship, innovation and venture creation. Students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community engage in cutting-edge teaching practices, relevant scholarly research, and creative collaboration. Its mission is to become the leading undergraduate university in entrepreneurship education and the #1 Center for Entrepreneurship in the nation. <http://www.jmu.edu/cob/centers/center-for-entrepreneurship/index.shtml>
 - Experiential Learning - MGT 472 Venture Creation to learn how to create value and how to build a viable business model.
 - Society of Entrepreneurs - hosts Startup Studio for students who are exploring entrepreneurship
 - Engaged Mentors and Entrepreneurs-in-Residence - Seasoned entrepreneurs and business professionals provide expert advice to students
- **JMU Technology Innovation:** offers expertise in intellectual property protection and commercialization, technology and market research, seed funding and pre-launch activities to assist in de-risking new ventures for faculty, staff and students. <http://www.jmu.edu/innovation/>
- **James Madison Innovations (JMI) :** JMI is the non-profit organization that is affiliated with JMU Technology Innovation to commercialize technologies. Together, the JMI Startup Fund, a philanthropic effort to move prototypes forward and launch companies and the Innovation Network of professionals provide dollars and managerial expertise to prove products and markets.
- **JMU Outreach and Engagement:** Outreach & Engagement serves non-traditional students, offering access to higher education for multiple audiences. <http://www.jmu.edu/outreach/> Kai Denger; degnerke@jmu.edu

Shenandoah University:

- The Harry F. Byrd, Jr. School of Business is actively pursuing its vision to become recognized as a provider of individualized business education driven by entrepreneurial thinking, global understanding, and ethical practice. The Institute for Entrepreneurship is a critical step in actualizing this vision and will have a positive impact on the next generation of business leaders through a series of initiatives that are now being developed. The following Institute elements provide solid ground on which entrepreneurial skills and thinking are encouraged, shaped, and supported by practical application:
 - Course development that supports the entrepreneurial spirit with practical knowledge in management, marketing, finance and law with practical applications
 - Mentoring program where successful entrepreneurs and faculty share their knowledge and experiences with students
 - New venture competition which provides students the opportunity to receive feedback on their new business ideas
 - Research to advance the understanding of entrepreneurship led by Byrd School faculty members
 - Alumni entrepreneur corps of graduates who will give their time back to the Byrd School by participating in classes and other initiatives sponsored by the Institute.

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