



**PENINSULA COUNCIL**  
For Workforce Development  
Greater Peninsula Workforce Development Board

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TWELTH ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AND RELEASE OF ANNUAL  
REPORT – WILLIAMSBURG**

Dateline October 19, 2017 –

**The Peninsula Council For Workforce Development** (PCFWD) held their 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Board meeting at the Williamsburg Winery on October 16, 2017. The event was attended by over 80 board members, community partners, and regional business leaders, who were welcomed by PCFWD Vice-chair Mark Stefanick, Senior Rewards, Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.

PCFWD President & CEO Matthew James provided an overview of the success's achieved during the past year. Included among these achievements was the work of the Council's Federal Division which resulted in the Virginia Board of Workforce Development granting "Full Approval" of the Greater Peninsula's 4-Year Strategic Plan. The Peninsula Worklink and Youth Workforce Center Staffs were also recognized for their outstanding work, surpassing all their respective federal performance metrics for services provided to both job seekers and area employers.

Mr. James also acknowledged and thanked the Council's community partners for their collaborative efforts, assisting over 1,000 locally based military members transition into civilian employment.

Of note, Mr. James shared comments made by Mr. Ron Painter, President & CEO, National Association of Workforce Boards, testifying before the House Subcommittee on Higher Education & Workforce Development in June 2017. In his testimony, Mr. Painter recognized the PCFWD for its innovative implementation of a work-based training model with the Newport News Shipbuilding Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8RI5PRUr4w>

Other successes noted this year included: a partnership with Virginia Local Workforce Development Areas I & II providing staff training for a business-developed Workplace Excellence Series; a new Executive Board Leadership Series; a partnership with the FORD Foundation's Next Generation Learning Model for the Academies of Hampton; the continued growth of the Youth Career Expo; the award of NorthStar Digital Literacy Certificates to 225 Peninsula residents; and for securing a national credential for sustainability in support of the TNCC and Greater Williamsburg Partnership's Pilot program, ChefsGO1.0.

Mr. James concluded his remarks with a national and statewide overview of economic development strategies affecting workforce development. A regional panel discussion followed, involving all 7 of the Greater Peninsula Region's Economic Development Directors, to include: Jim Noel, York County; Michele DeWitt, City of Williamsburg; Dave Callis, City of Poquoson; Amy Jordan, James City County, Leonard Sledge, City of Hampton; Florence Kingston, City of Newport News; and Sherry Spring, Gloucester County.

The annual meeting concluded with closing remarks by PCFWD Vice-chair Mark Stefanick, who thanked the panelist for sharing their thoughts on the intersection of workforce and economic development.

\* shown left to right in photo, J. Noel, M. DeWitt, D. Callis, A. Jordan, L. Sledge, F. Kingston, M. James, S. Spring, & M. Stefanick.



A link for the 2017 PCFWD Annual Report is available at [www.pcfwd.org/](http://www.pcfwd.org/)

More information on workforce development efforts on the Peninsula is available at [www.pcfwd.org](http://www.pcfwd.org) or by contacting (757) 826-3327.

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