



President's Council on UVA-Community Partnerships

617 W. Main Street | PO Box 400881
Charlottesville, VA 22903

P 434.243.2079
F 434.243.2091

prescouncil.president.virginia.edu

July 15, 2022

President James E. Ryan
Madison Hall
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4224

Dear President Ryan:

This letter acknowledges our receipt of the Local Economy Working Group's report of recommendations for ways the University can partner to enhance the local economy of the region.

We are pleased to support the recommendations outlined in the report as well as the UVA Supplier Diversity plan, which as also heartily endorsed by the working group. There are specific recommendations for which members of the council wished to further emphasize as each relates to local sourcing strategies:

- (1) UVA should be intentional about tracking and increasing investments in black businesses, recognizing the significant history of marginalized members of our community being left behind. While it is important to broaden access for all local SWaM businesses, without an intentional focus on supporting black owned businesses, there can still be continued underinvestment.
- (2) UVA should ensure that schools and units are doing business with local and historically disadvantaged businesses by developing tailored impact plans with the President's Office or COO's Office. Furthermore, the plans should also incorporate progress tracking among each of the school/unit leaders. UVA should create a supplier diversity champions council across Grounds to advocate for supplier inclusion at the school/unit level and provide quarterly reporting to school/unit leadership.
- (3) UVA should require vendors awarded contracts to list prospective employment opportunities at the new, to-be-started Community Connections Hub. Efforts related to both local sourcing/contracting and jobs/wages should be synchronized when applicable.

Recognizing UVA's annual \$1B spend, our Council is hopeful the recommendations outlined in the working group report, alongside implementation of the supplier diversity strategy, will result in a significant positive impact in the local economy, including the provision of new employment opportunities that relate to the work of the pipelines and pathways working group efforts. The ripple effects from implementing these strategies certainly have the momentum for making the demonstrable positive impacts that our group boldly set out to achieve together. To that end, we heartily support the investment and creation of data tracking systems that allow UVA to set bold goals to ensure continued progress and consistency across the organization.

Thank you in advance for you and your team's thoughtful review of this report and we look forward to hearing next steps.

Yours in partnership,

Brennan Gould & Erika Viccellio (on behalf of President's Council members, pg. 2)

Attachment: Local Economy Working Group Report and Recommendations, June 2022

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL MEMBERS

Brennan Gould, president and CEO, Charlottesville Area Community Foundation (co-chair)

Erika Viccellio, executive director, The Fountain Fund (co-chair)

Nirajé Medley-Bacon, UVA student representative

Elizabeth Beasley (ex officio), director of community partnerships, division of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Partnerships, UVA

Harold Folley, community organizer for the Legal Aid Justice Center

Bonnie Gordon, associate professor of music, faculty director, UVA Equity Center

Charlene Green, deputy director, Piedmont Housing Alliance

Mark Lorenzoni, founder, Ragged Mountain Running Shop

Cristine Nardi, executive director, Center for Nonprofit Excellence

Louis Nelson, vice provost for academic outreach and professor of architectural history

Ridge Schuyler, dean of community self-sufficiency programs, Piedmont Virginia Community College

Lorie Strother, SWaM (small, women- and minority-owned business) contract administrator at the University

Juandiego Wade, career counselor, Albemarle County; member, Charlottesville School Board

Dr. Michael Williams, associate professor of surgery

Barbara Brown Wilson, associate professor of urban and environment planning, School of Architecture; faculty director, UVA Equity Center