



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR  
**GROWTH &  
OPPORTUNITY**  
IN EACH REGION

COLLABORATION • INSPIRATION • SUCCESS

# December Newsletter

## Grantee News

Mark Your Calendar



### COVID-19 Resources for SOVA Entrepreneurs

Southern Virginia is home to resilient and creative problem solvers! The [SOVA COVID-19 Business Resource page](#), powered by **StartupSpace**, is a living database of resources to help your business respond and recover from this crisis.

Notice something missing? Add resources directly to the platform after you join. Have other comments, feedback or need other help? Email [hello@sovainnovationhub.com](mailto:hello@sovainnovationhub.com).



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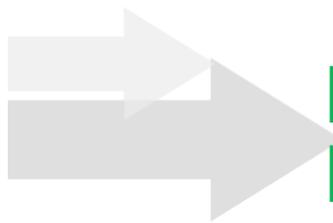
[COVID-19 Business Resources](#)

## Bridge to Recovery Helping Businesses across the Region

The team at Bridge to Recovery has been working hard! As of now, they have **72 suppliers identified** and **48 suppliers prequalified**, building a network of businesses that will help them re-open or grow during this unusual economic situation.

Out of the 48 prequalified suppliers, 11 locations across the region are represented.

11 Localities Represented	
Buckingham	1
Charlotte County	1
Danville	14
Emporia	1
Halifax County	7
Henry County	4
Martinsville	5
Mecklenburg	3
Patrick County	3
Pittsylvania County	5
Prince Edward County	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>



## Economic Development Highlights from Region 3

Microsoft  
TechSpark  
headquarters  
coming to South  
Boston

SPC4LIFE'S rebirth  
to help build  
qualified workforce

*The Gazette-Virginian*

December 1, 2020

*Brunswick Times-Gazette*

November 17, 2020

## GO TEC video covers Phase 2 grant, Danville training lab and COVID-19 transitions



Learn about the phase 2 grant, the new training lab in Danville, and how GO TEC has pivoted during COVID-19 during this informative 26-minute video. Use the timeline below to access specific topics covered in the video.

**3:00**

About the GO TEC program, regional partners, and how this grant will be used

**10:00**

How the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the GO TEC program

**15:36**

The GO TEC training lab at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in Danville and how the training lab will support the GO TEC program

**19:05**

Advice to give students who may be interested in participating in the GO TEC program

**22:45**

Advice for organizations who may be interested in pursuing a GO Virginia grant

## Food for Thought



Personal trainer Damien Johnson used to work at a gym, but is now building his own fitness business . Mr. Johnson after a workout session in Memorial Park, N.J., this month. BRYAN ANSELM FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**By Kim Mackrael, *Wall Street Journal* / November 18, 2020**

The coronavirus destroyed jobs. It also created entrepreneurs.

To adapt to the pandemic and the job loss it unleashed, more Americans are becoming their own bosses, setting up tiny businesses to work as traveling hair stylists, in-home personal trainers, boutique mask designers and chefs. A man in Maryland started a mobile car-washing business.

Many new entrepreneurs previously worked at salons, gyms and restaurants, in the kind of face-to-face jobs erased when state orders closed swaths of the

economy in the spring. [The economy has since mounted a split recovery](#), with some Americans thriving while many others continue to struggle. A cohort of the laid-off, stuck on the descending arm of that recovery, are using their ingenuity...

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**Our mailing address is:**  
200 South Mecklenburg Avenue  
South Hill, Virginia 23970

**Contact us:**