



Focusing the Nation's Foremost Scientists, Engineers, and Physicians on the Challenges Facing the Commonwealth

Nonpartisan Authoritative Insight

Since 1863, the National Academies have tapped the expertise and experience of the nation's most accomplished and innovative leaders in science, engineering, and medicine and tasked them with providing nonpartisan, objective guidance to decision-makers on the most difficult, challenging issues of the day.

In 2013, National Academy members and other leading scientists, engineers, and physicians from Virginia, encouraged by Sen. Mark Warner, formed the Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (VASEM) to provide similar services to the Commonwealth. This initiative has already produced important results.

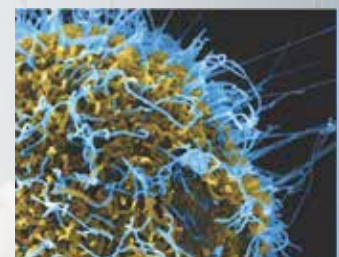
The Virginia Academy has issued a timely series of reports, commissioned by the General Assembly, on the future of aerospace in the Commonwealth and the impact of climate change on Virginia's coasts. It has also organized well-attended annual summits on issues of concern to every Virginian, from personalized medicine to the future of transportation.

A Perspective on the Future

In the process, the Virginia Academy has established a reputation for getting out ahead of the issues. Its 2017 summit spotlighting the world's vulnerability to emerging disease featured the foremost infectious disease experts in the nation including keynote speaker Anthony Fauci.

To capitalize on the insights of Virginia Academy members, the General Assembly approved the academy's proposal to identify five key strategies that could position the Commonwealth for leadership in areas of critical national need. In 2021, the academy's expert panel identified several alternatives for future study, each of which has the potential to bolster Virginia's economic base.

In joining forces with the Virginia Academy, the General Assembly recognized that, thanks to its collective expertise, this group offers a degree of rigor and objectivity that no single institution can achieve on its own. Since its founding, this independent resource for Virginia has become a model for new state academies across the nation.





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RECENT INITIATIVES

Summit 2021: Building Public Trust in Science

Our country is divided on issues — climate change, vaccination, and genetically modified foods, for instance — on which the science is clear and unequivocal. If our nation is to successfully address many of the pressing challenges it faces, we must rebuild trust in science, increase scientific literacy, and encourage evidence-based critical thinking while countering disinformation. This virtual summit, which attracted 200 participants, highlighted proven strategies that experts have used to ensure that science rises over the din.

White Paper: Key Strategies to Position Virginia for Leadership in Areas of Critical National Challenge

After a comprehensive review, members of the expert panel assembled by the Virginia Academy identified five areas in which Virginia has the assets and expertise to exert significant leadership on some of the nation's most complex and urgent challenges. They were reliable sustainable energy, supply chain system security, semiconductors, population health and wellness, and smart and connected communities. The panel recommended that the Commonwealth develop roadmaps for excellence in each of these areas, creating a path for sustained economic growth well into the future.

Research Report: The Impact of Climate Change on Virginia's Coastal Areas (June 2021)

In an effort to create a baseline for action, the Virginia General Assembly asked the Virginia Academy to write a comprehensive, concise report summarizing the latest information on changes in the climate and documenting the disruptions the Commonwealth can expect to undergo as a result. The report includes a clear explanation of the physical forces driving climate change, an analysis of the current and projected effects of climate change on the Commonwealth, perspectives that legislators might consider as they face these challenges, and recommendations that could help Virginia implement more productive and effective strategies to address them.

MISSION

Inform

Provide an independent resource of expertise in science, engineering, and medicine to Virginia. Envision future trends and provide leadership in catalyzing emerging opportunities.

Advocate

Promote investments in job growth, research, and solutions to challenges in science, engineering, and technology. Support emerging leaders in science, engineering, paving the way for their election to the national academies.

Serve

Foster new collaborations between businesses and Virginia's universities and colleges. Grow Virginia's competitiveness in attracting new business investments, federal funding, and job growth.

