

**STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**  
**Virginia's Workforce Certification Initiative**

Background

On March 10, 2016, Virginia's Governor signed into law the new Economy Workforce Credentials Grant Fund Program (WCG), a first in the Nation, outcomes-based funding model for short-term training programs leading to high-demand workforce credentials. This legislation provides Virginians with increased access to noncredit training leading to high-value, high-demand workforce credentials and opportunities for a sustainable living wage, while providing Virginia's businesses with the talent they need.

Virginia's Timeline to Credentials for the Workforce

On May 19, 2016, the State Board for Community Colleges (SBCC) received a fully vetted list of 124 different workforce training programs leading to such workforce credentials. This was reviewed and tentatively approved by the SBCC, pending alignment with high-demand fields approved by the Virginia Board of Workforce Development.

On June 23, 2016, the Virginia Board for Workforce Development (VBWD) approved a list of fields aligned with the SBCC's list of training.

On July 1, 2016, the WCG Program officially launched at Virginia's Community Colleges. As a result, eligible students are now paying one-third of the cost of training programs leading to high-demand workforce credentials. Colleges will receive the remaining two-thirds of the cost of these training programs when the student completes training and earns the externally-validated workforce credential.

College presidents and the State Board for Community Colleges will regularly receive WCG progress reports.

New credentials are reviewed and vetted by the Virginia Community College System Office staff and presented to the Virginia State Board for Community Colleges for consideration and approval.

List of approved credentials can be found at the site below.

<http://cdn.vccs.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/THE-LIST-web-edition.pdf>