

Highlights from the *Health Science in Virginia* Career Cluster Brief

The health care sector provides employment for nearly one in ten Virginians. This, along with other information found in the recently-released Career Cluster Brief, *Health Science in Virginia*, underscores the important point that **Virginia students pursuing careers in Health Science may expect many job opportunities, plenty of career choice, and the option to work in localities all across the Commonwealth.**

HEALTH CARE IN VIRGINIA

CTE graduates are in an excellent position to help achieve priorities stated by Governor McAuliffe in his platform on health care, including efforts to

- deliver improved home health care services to manage chronic health conditions,
- expand rural health care delivery, and
- provide community and home care to seniors

This final goal is particularly important because **nearly one in five Virginians will be age 65 or older within two decades.**

EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

- According to Virginia Employment Commission, the Health Care and Social Assistance Industry is projected to see rapid growth by 2020.
- **All five Health Science pathways are projected to grow, with Biotechnology Research and Development forecast to grow fastest.**
- The health care industry was estimated to have a \$28 billion economic impact in Virginia in 2011.
- With well over 100,000 prospective employment opportunities in Virginia health care between 2010 and 2020, investing in education and training will be crucial for Virginia's future.

TECHNOLOGY AND HEALTH SCIENCE

In an effort to provide improved health care to rural areas, the practice of telemedicine (telehealth) has gained momentum in the country over the last several years. With many grants to fund telehealth programs across the Commonwealth, including the newly established *Southside Telehealth Training Institute Academy and Resource Center*, Virginia is a leader in applying telehealth technology to the challenge of rural health care. **Students and graduates in the Health Science Cluster will benefit from strong computer skills, and an understanding of the important connection between health care and technology.**

While rural health care is a persistent need in the Commonwealth, all regions are forecast to need health services providers and support workers in the coming years, making Health Science a career cluster full of opportunity in both career choice and job location.