

WELCOME TO THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Virginia Beach Economic Development Department's monthly newsletter for May 2025. Below, you will find a recap of the latest announced projects, HIVE updates, team happenings and business engagements, keeping you informed of all developments in the Department.

To see the Department's activities in real time, follow our [LinkedIn Page](#).

BUSINESS EVENTS	HOSTED BY VBED	ON THE ROAD	BUSINESS RESOURCES
--------------------	-------------------	----------------	-----------------------

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS:

VIRGINIA BEACH

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WEEK

IED Week Proclamation May 8
IED Week Kickoff Golf Tournament May 9

12 MAY

Coffee with Council

12:00PM - 1:00PM
400 Main Street Suite 700

13 MAY

Small & International Business Outreach

14 MAY

Business Retention, Expansion and Workforce Appreciation

15 MAY

Fervent Four Podcast on Economic Development

16 MAY

VBED Team Appreciation & Port Tour

www.YesVirginiaBeach.com
[#BeCauseofTheBeach](#)

virginia beach
BUSINESS TURNS THE TIDE

Virginia Beach Showcases Growth and Innovation During Economic Development Week

Virginia Beach Economic Development (VBED) will celebrate [International Economic Development Week](#) from May 12–16 with a series of events highlighting business growth, workforce appreciation and international engagement.

We kicked off the celebration on May 6 with an official proclamation from the [Virginia Beach City Council](#). VBED staff attended and the public was invited to attend this meeting.

A full week of engaging events follows.

- **May 12–15 – VBED Open Office Hours:** VBED will have open office hours between 8–10 a.m. for any business that would like to drop in and learn more about our services.
- **May 12 – Coffee with Council:** VBED representatives showcased how economic development was driving community impact and elevating businesses in 2025 and beyond to members of the City Council, concluding with a bonus office tour.
- **May 13 – Small Business & International Outreach:** Our team thanks international companies in the Virginia Beach International Incubator and EDIP awardees, recognizing their growth and contributions to our local economy.
- **May 14 – BRE & Workforce Appreciation:** VBED staff will visit area businesses to personally deliver appreciation certificates and gifts to recognize their investment in Virginia Beach.
- **May 15 – The “Fervent Four Show”:** VBED Director Christian Green will be the guest on Innovate Hampton Road’s [“Fervent Four Show”](#), where he will share his vision, experience and future goals for Virginia Beach.

Residents and business leaders are encouraged to participate in IED Week to learn how economic development shapes Virginia Beach’s future.

LEARN MORE



Virginia Beach Focus of Offshore Wind Energy Industry at IPF 2025

Virginia Beach Economic Development’s team worked closely with the Oceanic Network to produce the 2025 International Partnering Forum (IPF), held April 28–May 1 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center and at other sites in Hampton Roads.

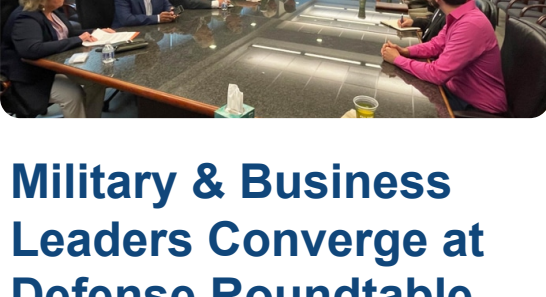
The event, one of the offshore wind industry’s premier gatherings, attracted attendees from around the world, including government leaders, developers and supply chain companies. The forum featured keynote speakers, business matchmaking sessions, panels and the Ventus Gala. IPF 2025 demonstrated Virginia Beach’s growing leadership role in the offshore wind sector, fostering new business relationships and investment in the region.

Virginia Beach Took Center Stage for the 2025 State of the Port, May 7–8

Virginia Beach served as the backdrop for the 2025 State of the Port on May 7–8.

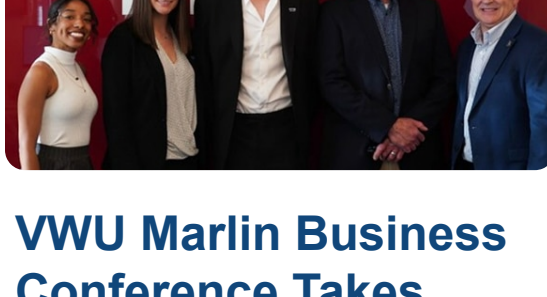
Presented by the [Hampton Roads Global Commerce Council \(HRGCC\)](#) and the Port of Virginia, Virginia Beach Economic Development was proud to be a premier sponsor of the two-day event that will bring together regional leaders, industry experts and stakeholders to examine port performance, economic trends and the strategic future of one of the East Coast’s most critical commercial gateways. The event promised timely insights and dynamic discussions on the forces shaping global commerce—and how Virginia Beach is playing a key role in that momentum.

HOSTED BY VBED



Military & Business Leaders Converge at Defense Roundtable on April 21

On April 21, Virginia Beach Economic Development (VBED) hosted a strategic defense roundtable, uniting industry leaders to discuss growth, collaboration and innovation in the sector. Mayor Bobby Dyer delivered opening remarks, followed by introductions from VBED Director Christian Green and a keynote presentation on international trade by Jordan Watkins, Global Defense Manager at the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP). Attendees explored Virginia Beach’s \$26 billion defense economic impact and networked with top defense professionals.



VWU Marlin Business Conference Takes Flight at The HIVE

Photo courtesy of The Marlin Business Conference, Virginia Wesleyan University

Virginia Wesleyan University business students explored small business innovation, incubator projects and economic development on April 16 at The HIVE as part of the 2025 Marlin Business Conference, themed “Riding the Wave of Innovation.”

ON THE ROAD:



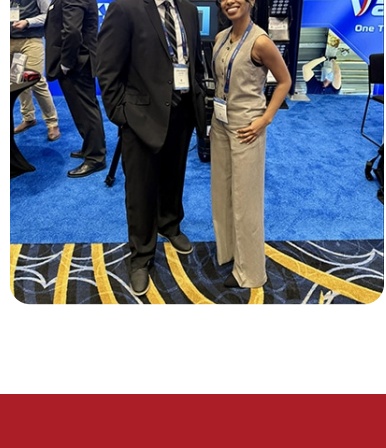
Virginia Beach Economic Development Engages at VEDA Spring Conference April 2–4

Virginia Beach Economic Development staff participated in the [Virginia Economic Developers Association \(VEDA\)](#) Spring Conference, with a theme of “Art vs. Science” that set the stage for engaging discussions.



Virginia Beach Economic Development Sponsors HRACRE Design Awards

The 2024 [HRACRE](#) Design Awards were held on April 3, celebrating the architects, designers and developers whose work is transforming the Hampton Roads region.



VBED Joins Global Defense Leaders at Sea-Air-Space 2025

VBED staff engage with industry leaders at *Sea Air Space 2025*, the nation’s premier maritime expo, held April 19–22 at the Gaylord National Convention Center in National Harbor, MD.



THE HIVE

The HIVE is our business resource center designed to support an innovative and entrepreneurial ecosystem in Virginia Beach. The HIVE took part in several events the past two months focused on supporting small businesses and workforce, including Women in Construction Week, military transition seminar, diversity and equity summit, business pitch event and business accelerator graduation.

For more information about events, including the ongoing activities and resources of the HIVE, read their [newsletter](#) and sign up to receive future newsletters at the link below.

SIGN UP NOW

BUSINESS RESOURCES:

Webinar: Securing Global Trade — Cybersecurity Compliance and Certifications

Cybersecurity is no longer optional in today’s global economy — it’s essential for growth and protection. Join [Virginia Economic Development Partnership \(VEDP\)](#) International Trade for a free webinar on May 21 at 10 a.m. to learn how cybersecurity certifications can safeguard your business, boost global competitiveness, and ensure compliance. Experts will break down key certifications and offer guidance on choosing the right ones for your operations. Click [here](#) to register.

LEARN MORE

VEDP Announces Fall Trade Missions to Global Markets

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) is offering fall trade missions to Latin America, Europe, Australia and Southeast Asia, providing businesses with opportunities to expand into these growing international markets.

Each mission requires a \$2,500 participation fee plus travel expenses. Registration deadlines vary:

- Mexico:** Sept. 22–26 (Register by July 25)
- Colombia:** Oct. 20–24 (Register by Aug. 22)
- Romania & Poland:** Oct. 27–31 (Register by Aug. 29)
- Australia:** Nov. 10–14 (Register by Sept. 12)
- Malaysia & Philippines:** Nov. 12–19 (Register by Sept. 12)

LEARN MORE

Hampton Roads Regional Job Fair and Virginia Beach Application Fest

The Hampton Roads Workforce Council will host the Hampton Roads Regional Job Fair on June 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn Suffolk Riverfront, 100 E. Constance Road.

As a lead-up to the event, HRWC is announcing an Application Fest Tour across the region’s 15 localities. The Application Fest tour is an innovative hiring event that will connect top talent with 50–60 employers. The tour will stop in Virginia Beach on May 29 at [the Hive](#).

For more information, visit [Hampton Roads Workforce Council](#).

The City of Virginia Beach is committed to promoting a business-friendly environment and providing a range of resources to support companies operating in the city. Below are resources facilitated through the Department of Economic Development.

LEARN MORE

Economic Development Investment Program (EDIP) Grants for Qualifying Businesses

The city’s [Economic Development Investment Program \(EDIP\)](#) is a discretionary incentive program with cash grants available to assist qualifying companies in growing their business. If you are a new or expanding business in the city, you may be eligible.

LEARN MORE

International Incubator Office Space

The [International Incubator](#) is a soft-landing office space designed for international companies planning expansion into the U.S. market. Strategically located in Town Center and adjacent to the Economic Development office, the Incubator provides an ideal environment for growing businesses. [Contact staff](#) to learn more.

LEARN MORE

Use Virginia SCAN to Research Available Sites and Properties

For a comprehensive look at available sites and properties in Virginia Beach, visit [Virginia SCAN](#), operated by Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

LEARN MORE