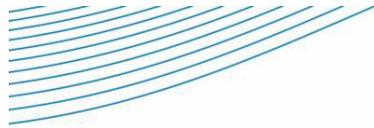


From: Hampton Roads Alliance <ahegrenes@hamptonroadsalliance.com>

Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 2:08 PM

To: Olsen, Kristi <olsen@yorkcounty.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rethinking What's Possible: May 2025 Wave Report



THE WAVE REPORT

Rethinking What's Possible



MAY 2025

Innovation is not just a buzzword—it's the engine that drives economic growth, attracts talent and shapes vibrant communities. At the Hampton Roads Alliance, we believe that fostering a culture of innovation is essential to unlocking the region's full potential.

Last month, I had the privilege to participate in the inaugural Global Institute for Innovation Districts' Global Summit. Leaders from around the world convened to discuss the rise of innovation districts and how these areas can “invent and prototype breakthrough technologies as well as solve technological challenges that emerge from the accelerated surge in areas such as production and decarbonization.”

Hampton Roads is doing just that.

Alliance COO Steve Harrison also joined a delegation of local leaders, organized by the Virginia Peninsula Chamber, on a visit to Kendall Square in Boston—known globally as “the most innovative square mile on the planet.” It was a powerful experience seeing firsthand how intentional collaboration between higher education, industry and government can spark breakthrough ideas and create ecosystems where innovation thrives.

The takeaways were clear: to compete in today's economy, Hampton Roads must continue building the infrastructure, partnerships and culture that support big ideas and bold ventures. We have the assets—world-class research institutions, a thriving port, a robust defense presence and an entrepreneurial spirit.

What we need now is continued momentum and a playbook for us all to work from (spoiler alert: that's coming next month).

This edition of our newsletter dives into the exciting ways innovation and collaboration is already taking root across our region—and how together, we can accelerate that growth to build a stronger, more resilient future for Hampton Roads.

Let's keep moving forward—together.

Douglas L. Smith

Douglas L. Smith

President & CEO

Hampton Roads Alliance

Hampton Roads Alliance **STORIES**



Building a Stronger Region, One Relationship at a Time

When Buffy Barefoot talks about Hampton Roads, you can hear the pride in her voice — a pride rooted in community, collaboration and a steadfast belief in the power of connection.

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Hampton Roads Leaders Explore Kendall Square to Inspire Regional Innovation Ecosystem Growth

What does it take to spark a world-class innovation ecosystem?

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Alliance President Doug Smith Attends Global Institute on Innovation Districts Global Summit

In April 2025, Doug Smith, President & CEO of the Hampton Roads Alliance, participated in the inaugural Global Summit hosted by The Global Institute on Innovation Districts (GIID) in Monterrey, Mexico.

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Sumitomo Drive Technologies to Automate Warehouse and Distribution Center in Chesapeake

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership today announced that Sumitomo Drive Technologies, a global power transmission manufacturer, will invest \$9.3 million to automate a warehouse and distribution center in the City of Chesapeake.

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ICYMI: LS Greenlink Groundbreaking in Hampton Roads, Virginia

[Watch the Video](#)

Hampton Roads Alliance COO Steve Harrison Provides Keynote Address at William & Mary's Public Policy Commencement Ceremony



When Steve Harrison stepped up to the podium at William & Mary's 2025 Public Policy Commencement Ceremony, he wasn't just addressing graduates — he was welcoming them into a lifelong community of impact, innovation, and, as he fondly called it, the “William & Mary Wow Factor.”

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Showcasing Hampton Roads on the Global Stage: 2025 SelectUSA Investment Summit and Spin-Off Event

Earlier this month, the Hampton Roads region proudly took part in SelectUSA's Investment Summit Spin Off event, held May 6–9, followed by strong regional representation at the **SelectUSA** Conference May 11–14 in National Harbor, Maryland.

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