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**VMA Honored by VACTE for Legislative Efforts**  
***Industry and educators partner to focus on Career and Technical Education***

**Richmond, VA** – The Virginia Manufacturers Association (VMA) is honored to be named *Industry Partner of the Year* by the Virginia Association of Career and Technical Education (VACTE) during the association's annual meeting and banquet. Honored along with the VMA was the *Career and Technical Educator of the Year*, Jesse White of Hampton, and the *Legislator of the Year*, Senator Frank Wagner of Virginia Beach.



**State Superintendent Dr. Pat Wright, VMA's Alice Scott, Brett Vassey and VACTE President Rose Blevins at the award presentation**

"The mission of the partnership between VMA and VACTE is to afford the Commonwealth school systems the appropriate resources to produce a workforce that will meet the today's challenges of global competition for Virginia's employers," remarked John Ledgerwood, VACTE Vice President for Public Policy and a Career and Technical Education (CTE) teacher in the Virginia Beach school system.

Specifically in the last three years, VACTE, VMA and other similarly-focused industry groups have worked together on a variety of legislative and regulatory efforts to promote and expand CTE opportunities in the K-12 system including increased utilization of the Virginia Workplace Readiness Skills (WRS), development of a K-12 engineering curriculum, and recognition through points awarded on both the school performance report card and the school accreditation score for credential attainment.

"High performing CTE programs are critical to ensuring a connection between education and career opportunities for students by teaching skills that are transferable to the workplace," observed Katherine DeRosear, VMA Director of Workforce Development. "We encourage exploration of advanced technology careers through the *Dream It. Do It. Virginia* website and have provided CTE teachers with this resource as another way to demonstrate the relevancy of skills to high-paying careers in Virginia."

VMA and VACTE would like to thank the administrators and legislators who have supported these efforts, including but not limited to The Honorable Laura Fornash, Dr. Pat Wright, Senator Frank Wagner, Senator Frank Ruff, Delegate Kathy Byron, Delegate Chris Stolle, and Delegate Robert Tata.

**About the VMA**

The Virginia Manufacturers Association has been *Industry's Advocate* in the Commonwealth since 1922. The VMA develops and advocates for constructive public policies and supports a broad array of business services and programs to help ensure that Virginia manufacturing companies can be productive, profitable and competitive in Virginia. Virginia's 5,000+ manufacturers employ over 200,000 individuals, contribute \$34 billion to the gross state product, and account for over 80% of the state's exports to the global economy. Visit [www.vamanufacturers.com](http://www.vamanufacturers.com) for more information.

**About *Dream It. Do It. Virginia***

*Dream It. Do It. Virginia* is a free, online career resource tool built by Virginia's advanced technology sector to help individuals learn more about exciting fields and connect them with possible future employment. The centerpiece of the resource is the "So What Do You Do?" campaign featured in all related media outreach. *Dream It. Do It. Virginia* is a partner with The Manufacturing Institute and its national *Dream It. Do It.* program. For more information, visit [www.dreamitdoitvirginia.com](http://www.dreamitdoitvirginia.com).