

(804) 780-4146
Office



"Cultivating Talent for Richmond's Workforce"

201 West Broad Street - Suite 100
Richmond, VA 23220

(804) 780-4177
FAX

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Dear Joy Murphy,

The Richmond Career Advancement Center is pleased to announce our endorsement of the services provided by The Bridge CDC. The organizational focus to create a network that eliminates the variety of resource barriers that limit Richmond ESL programs is exactly what the Richmond area needs as a value added resource.

According to the Richmond Workforce Investment Board, between 2000 and 2010, there will be a major increase in the 55+ population. As a result, the job market will have fewer entry-level workers. Employers are now turning to non-traditional sources of labor, like immigrant populations, to fill these jobs. Currently, there are an estimated 45,000 non-native speaking residents living in the area. In the ten years between the 1990 and the 2000 Census, this population has grown by 220% and expects to increase.

There are many non-native persons residing in the Greater Richmond Area who want to connect to employment and/or resources that enable them to upgrade their language, educational and/or occupational skills to become more competitive in the workplace. Yet, studies show it takes 3-5 years to develop oral proficiency and 4-7 years to develop academic proficiency in English. These statistics indicate a need for a more customized method for serving limited English proficient job seekers and employers with open positions in the area.

We encourage all ESL program providers to complete the assessment and return to The Bridge CDC so that we can begin to realize the positive impact that this endeavor will have for no-native English speaking residents.

Sincerely,

Patricia King

Patricia King
Deputy Director

