



Blue Ridge Partnership Recognized as National Leader in Building Talent Pipelines

Cynthia Lawrence was selected to participate in the national workforce conference, Close It! alongside Deloitte, held in May in Santa Fe, in recognition of her leadership in advancing the Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers. Anchored by Carilion Clinic, the partnership has emerged as a high-impact, cross-sector collaboration that unites healthcare and life sciences employers, education, and economic development to address evolving workforce needs. This employer-driven model demonstrates how regions can move beyond short-term pilot programs to build

scalable, sustainable workforce systems. The Blue Ridge Partnership's success underscores the importance of strong data, shared accountability across sectors, and long-term infrastructure investment in driving lasting workforce transformation. Collectively, these efforts are positioning the region as a national leader in developing resilient healthcare talent pipelines and strengthening the broader biomedical economy.

Summer Residential Governor's School for Medicine and Health Sciences

The Summer Residential Governor's School for Medicine and Health Sciences is coming up soon, and we are excited to welcome a new group of students for this immersive experience! Hosted by Radford University and the Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Sciences Careers, this program is designed for students with a serious interest in science, curiosity about the impact of science in medicine and health care, and the motivation to spend a month in a rigorous, academically accelerated summer environment. Students arrive June 21, and the program will continue through July 10, 2026.

Oncology Podcast Episode

Check out our latest podcast episode focused on oncology! The oncology job market is rapidly evolving, driven by advances in cancer care, a growing patient population, and new models of healthcare delivery. This episode explores the many job roles available in supporting oncology patients and families.

Featuring:

- Nancy Agee, CEO Emeritus, Carilion Clinic
- Melinda Distefano, BSN, RN, OCN, Oncology Nurse Navigator, Carilion Clinic
- William Fintel, MD, Medical Director of Hematology and Oncology, Carilion Clinic
- Douglas J. Grider, MD, FCAP, FASDP, Pathologist, President & Managing Director, Dominion Pathology Associates
- Jessica Nichols, MSHS, CCRC, Interim Director Clinical Trials, Carilion Clinic
- Emma Osborne, MSW, Licensed Outpatient Oncology Social Worker, Carilion Clinic
- Aaron Rivers, RTT, Radiation Therapist, Carilion Clinic



Radio Melrose Now Airing Podcast Episodes

We're also excited to announce that Radio Melrose is now airing episodes of the "My Way on the Health Sciences Highway" podcast on their station! This new partnership creates a meaningful

opportunity to reach even more listeners throughout the community with valuable conversations about health sciences careers, education pathways, workforce opportunities, and personal journeys in healthcare.

[View Episodes Here](#)

Blue Ridge Partnership Supports STEMM Professional Learning for Local Educators

The Blue Ridge Partnership is proud to support professional learning opportunities for local educators by sponsoring two science teachers from Central Academy Middle School in Botetourt County, Allison Camper and Sam Foster, to attend the STEMM Master Teacher Development Institute at Baylor College of Medicine this July. The Institute provides intensive training in phenomenon-based, three-dimensional learning aligned to science content standards through a STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine) lens. Participants will also explore Baylor College of Medicine's BioEd Online curriculum resources to help integrate STEMM concepts throughout their instruction and serve as STEMM advocates on their campuses. We are excited for Allison and Sam to participate in this valuable professional learning experience and look forward to the knowledge, skills, and innovative practices they will bring back to their students, colleagues, and school community.



Day in the Life: Emma Osborne, MSW, Licensed Outpatient Oncology Social Worker, Carilion Clinic. [View her video!](#)



Kathryn Buzik Receives Statewide Intern Award

Kathryn Buzik was named a "2026 Top 50 Interns in Virginia" by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership. Buzik was recognized for her outstanding work as an intern for Carilion Clinic's workforce development team. This award was introduced this year to shine a light on emerging talent and future leaders across the Commonwealth who are making a difference in their fields and communities.

HOSA Success!

If you didn't attend the Virginia HOSA State Leadership Conference this spring, be sure to check out the [recap video](#)! Sponsored by the Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers and hosted in Roanoke, the conference welcomed more than 800 participants from schools across Virginia. Student participation highlighted a highly motivated, statewide pipeline of future healthcare professionals.

[New Career Map - Physician!](#)

[Available Opportunities Page](#)

Be sure to visit our "[Career Maps](#)" webpage to view our newly created physician career pathways map. The career maps help people look beyond a single job and visualize an entire career through a variety of paths. These career pathways also assist with seeing job progression and advancement, while showcasing how different roles are connected in the industry.

Check out Blue Ridge Partnership's new "[Available Opportunities](#)" page, where you can find links to job postings, internships, and learning opportunities. We'll continue adding partner career pages and expanding this resource to make it a valuable tool for those seeking new opportunities.

Be a Mentor!

Get to know the future talent you'll need! Become a mentor, share your insight, and help prepare the next generation of innovators for careers in vital fields. It's a chance to turn your knowledge into lasting change. [Apply now.](#)



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Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers | 1 Riverside Circle | Roanoke, VA 24016 US

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