

**REGIONAL DAY**



March 11, 2011

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Mr. Michael W. Johnson  
County Administrator  
Southampton County  
P.O. Box 400  
Courtland, VA 23837

Dear Mike:

Please join us at the Second Annual *Vision Hampton Roads* “**Regional Day**” Friday, May 6, 2011, at the Chesapeake Conference Center, 900 Greenbrier Circle, Chesapeake, Virginia.

Breakfast is held 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. A corporate sponsor will host each elected official, providing you with an opportunity to visit one-on-one with the business leaders of Hampton Roads. The event is open to the public. Regional organizations will share their innovations such as avatars, virtual worlds and NASA Knights robotics team before, during and after the event. A special innovation video will debut. We anticipate an attendance of over 600, including investors interested in Hampton Roads.

**Regional Day** is the annual report to the community of initiatives and results of the first region-wide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), *Vision Hampton Roads*.

Aneesh Chopra, Chief Technology Officer to the President of the United States and former Secretary of Technology for the Commonwealth of Virginia, will keynote, sharing U.S. initiatives surrounding innovation and how they relate to Hampton Roads. Chopra’s work and knowledge of the challenges facing Virginia will help launch the Hampton Roads region into its global – technology – future and help reinforce the “grow your own” innovation development strategy.

***Innovate!HamptonRoads*<sup>™</sup> is connecting entrepreneurs, ideas and investment.**



*Innovate!HamptonRoads*<sup>™</sup> is a critical component of *Vision*, created to promote locally grown, technology-based economic development in Hampton Roads so the region is recognized internationally for clusters of excellence, fueled by a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship and economic and educational opportunities. Visit <http://InnovateHamptonRoads.com>.

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Led by the Hampton Roads Partnership, *Innovate!HamptonRoads*<sup>™</sup> is about bringing the regional tech incubators together with the tech business clusters (Aerospace, BioScience, Coastal Energy, Modeling & Simulation, Robotics, Sensors) to connect ideas, entrepreneurs and capital and successfully commercialize the wealth of research in the region. This network includes business and entrepreneurial support, university and business partnerships, forums and networking, both peer-to-peer and virtual, and physical infrastructure.

Regional Day's program will:

- ENGAGE the community to focus attention on the dire need to diversify the regional economy and the best way to hedge all bets is through innovation.
- EXCITE the business community on job creation and job growth through creativity, with this selling tool – the region as "innovation hotspot" – to attract new business.
- EMBRACE the change, especially the culture of entrepreneurship, i.e., "failure is not an option; it's a requirement" for innovation.

We hope your schedule will allow you to be among our honored guests for this very special annual event.

Please contact Angi Baker at (757) 625-4696 or email at [ABaker@HRP.org](mailto:ABaker@HRP.org) to RSVP. The day of the event, a volunteer will greet you at the door and escort you to your sponsor's table.

Sincerely,



E. Dana Dickens, III  
President and CEO

**Providing strategic leadership and improving Hampton Roads' competitive position in the global economy.**

Founded in 1996, the Hampton Roads Partnership represents ten cities, six counties, one town and their nearly 1.7 million citizens in Southeastern Coastal Virginia, *America's First Region*, in the Heart of the Mid-Atlantic. Membership consists of community leaders from business and industry, professions and information services, nonprofit, academia and labor, membership representing close to one-third of the region's population and over one-half of the labor force. The Partnership facilitates regional collaboration and action resulting in income and job growth and a better quality of life for all of the region's citizens.

*Think Globally ~ Strategize Regionally ~ Act Locally*  
Learn more at <http://VisionHamptonRoads.com>.