



## **DHRM HR Highlights August 2026**

### **COVA Internship Connection – Impact Expo**

This summer, the COVA Internship Connection continued its mission to (1) strengthen public service talent through internships, (2) empower Virginia State Government agencies to develop impactful internship programs, and (3) foster greater awareness of state government while supporting intern success. During the summer internship season, we engaged nearly 150 interns representing agencies across the Commonwealth. Throughout the program, interns participated in workforce development seminars, mock interview preparation sessions, and engaging panel discussions. These experiences culminated in the first-ever COVA Internship Connection Impact Expo, where interns showcased their summer projects, reflected on their growth, and proudly represented their agencies.

The Impact Expo not only highlighted the breadth of work across state government but also created meaningful opportunities for connection and professional development. As one intern shared, they enjoyed, "Getting to talk with interns from other agencies; seeing what they did was insightful into what else is really out there. It was great to connect with them about their experience and other parts of life in a networking fashion. Also, the event provided me [with] confidence in how I present myself professionally when it came to talking about my experience." This sentiment was echoed by Expo attendees, who emphasized the value of cross-agency engagement. One guest noted that they valued "Getting to hear about the projects from other agencies across the Commonwealth and meeting remarkable interns."

None of this would have been possible without the dedication and support of our agency partners and volunteers; we thank you. Our goal is to host more agencies and interns at next year's Expo. For more information on the COVA Internship Connection, visit our [webpage](#).