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## Data Stories: VLDS Helps Assess Successful Education Programs

Parents, educators and politicians are concerned about whether students are sufficiently prepared for success in K-12 through college and into the workplace. The answer to the simplest question, "How are Virginia students doing?" can have a profound impact on the state's goals, planning and strategies and will affect Virginia's ability to compete in the global economy. Several research projects have begun to tackle this question in ways that were impossible before the creation of VLDS.

VLDS recently posted its first "Data Stories" document. [Data Stories: VLDS Helps Assess Successful Education Programs](#) highlights key insights from four VLDS studies in easy-to-understand language. The topics covered by the four studies include:

- What factors affect student success in school and in the workplace?
- Does diploma type matter?
- Can coaching and mentoring make a difference?
- Does combining an Advanced Studies diploma with Career and Technical Education (CTE) certification give students an edge?

To learn more, read the [full story](#).

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## Insights Explained: Return on Investment for Virginia's Public Workforce Development Programs

This research project, conducted by Elise Harper-Anderson, Ph.D. and Myung Jin, Ph.D. focused on answering three questions:

- What is the return on investment (ROI) to the government for providing public workforce development services to Virginia job seekers?
- How does ROI differ across service levels, demographic groups and local workforce investment areas?
- What roles do demographic, service and economic factors play in employment and earnings outcomes for workforce participants?

To answer these questions Dr. Harper-Anderson and Dr. Jin examined three workforce programs: the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and the Wagner-Peyser Act (WP). Based on the study outcomes, they recommended Virginia:

- Capitalize on strategies that already are working, such as outreach to disadvantaged groups and strategically aligning workforce training opportunities with credentials and credential pathways.
- Integrate ROI into the broader Virginia workforce performance measurement system.
- Improve data collection and data quality for more robust ROI outcomes.

For a more in-depth look at these recommendations and insights from this research [read the full one-page summary](#).

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## Save the Date



The 2015 Insights Conference will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 on the Stafford Campus of the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg.

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