

VIRGINIA'S

## NEW RIVER VALLEY

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Virginia's New River Valley is a natural fit for companies in software development, cybersecurity security, IT support, digital creative, and other sectors in the Information Technology industry. With exceptional education programs out of local universities, the NRV is producing some of the best IT workforce in the country who can flourish here, in a region with such excellent quality of life and low cost of living.

#30 LEADING LOCATION FOR NEW & EXPANDING BUSINESSES -Area Development

#10 IN HIGH-TECH EMPLOYMENT CONCENTRATION -SelectUSA (2017)

#3 METRO WITH HIGH RATIO OF IT GRADS TO JOBS -Expansion Solutions (2017)

TOP 10 AFFORDABLE AND ATTRACTIVE METRO FOR YPS -PEW (2017)

154 IT-RELATED COMPANIES THAT EMPLOY OVER 2,000 PEOPLE -EMSI (2016)

35% JOB GROWTH IN IT SECTOR, FASTER THAN U.S. (12%) & VA (2%) -EMSI (2012-16)

## ACCESS TO TALENT

The strength of higher education in the NRV generates a **talented workforce and supportive ecosystem**. Virginia Tech (VT), New River Community College (NRCC) and Radford University (RU) produce a steady supply of IT talent with degrees in **Computer & Information Sciences** (19 Associate's; 295 Bachelor's; 132 Master's; and 22 Ph.D.'s) and **Computer Engineering** (113 Bachelor's; 40 Master's; and 11 Ph.D.'s). Companies in the region also have success recruiting alumni from these universities back to the area to fill mid and senior level positions. **Virginia Tech has 250,000+ living alumni** (55,000 in the Greater D.C. Area) and **Radford University has 73,000+ living alumni** (50,953 in Virginia). Entry-level and highly educated professionals remain in the NRV because of its vast and beautiful outdoor amenities, cultural events, and little perks (like incredibly low traffic).

### NRCC

New River Community College offers a number of information technology degrees and non-degree programs. Students can specialize in cybersecurity and other IT-related areas. NRCC has built partnerships with companies in several different IT-related industries in order to ensure students are ready to enter the workforce. The college offers five IT Associate's degree-track programs and two certificate programs at their STEM Center in Christiansburg.

### RADFORD UNIVERSITY

RU has the only Data & Information Management program in VA and is a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the NSA & U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security. RU's reputation for industry collaboration comes from its Applied Research Center, an industry consortium designed to attract, develop, and retain IT talent for corporate partners. Companies can put employees in the high-tech ARTIS lab, a collaborative workspace to work with faculty and students.

### VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Tech is also designated a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education by the NSA & U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security for cybersecurity. The university also offers multidisciplinary opportunities in information security assurance research and education. The Hume Center for National Security and Technology is consistently nationally recognized for their research on defense and cyber-attack intelligence applications.

## SUBSECTORS

Software Development  
Cybersecurity  
IT Support Services  
Digital Creative



"The universities here have great programs, and the area is such that you get people who want to stay or come back after a few years because it's a nice community. People come to school, fall in love with the area, and want to stay."

-Matt McHugh,  
Excella Lead Development Mentor

# TECH COMPANIES IN THE NRV (Not a comprehensive list.)

## SOFTWARE/CLOUD:

- AeroSoft
- Automation Creations
- Booz Allen Hamilton
- Block One
- Click & Pledge
- Harmonia

- Meridium (GE Digital)
- Ozmo
- Phoenix Integration
- PowerSchool
- Qualtrax
- Rackspace Hosting
- TEDS

## IT SOLUTIONS/CYBERSECURITY: DIGITAL CREATIVE:

- 1901 Group
- Advanced Logic Industries
- Citizens
- FoxGuard Solutions
- Solars
- New River Computing
- Excella
- Modea
- New City
- UnCorkit
- Venveo

## IT CULTURE

The IT culture in the NRV is like no other. The industry thrives here in our collection of downtowns and a large presence of grassroots community groups with a specific and passionate industry focus:

- 100 Girls of Code
- RUSecure Capture the Flag
- Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council (RBTC)
- Hacksburg
- Let's Code Blacksburg
- NRV Agile Users Group
- Tuxedo Pandas
- VT Hacks
- RU Cyber Defense Club
- Blacksburg Ruby Meet-up
- New River Robotics
- Blacksburg Blockchain Meetup



*"The area has everything I need, like a big city, but it's still a small town."*

-Ryan Hagan, Qualtrax COO

## OPERATING COSTS

Being a college town creates a beneficial blend of culture with more urban amenities and a lower cost of living. This allows for lower wages and operational costs, but exceptional quality of life standards compared to other IT hubs. *The information below is from (1) Sperlings Best Places, (2) Jones Lang LaSalle IP, Inc., and (3) the U.S. Bureau of Labor & Statistics.*

METRO AREAS	COST OF LIVING <sup>1</sup>	AVG. LEASE RATES <sup>2</sup>	AVERAGE WAGES FOR IT-RELATED JOBS <sup>3</sup>
<b>Silicon Valley</b>	241.5	\$49.98	\$123,600
<b>San Francisco, CA</b>	217.8	\$73.05	\$112,400
<b>Washington, DC</b>	135	\$53.49	\$104,280
<b>New York, NY</b>	145.7	\$72.63	\$99,300
<b>Boston, MA</b>	150.1	\$33.73	\$98,360
<b>Boulder, CO</b>	146.9	\$27.85	\$94,330
<b>Raleigh, NC</b>	103.5	\$21.37	\$89,210
<b>Atlanta, GA</b>	97.9	\$23.30	\$88,510
<b>Austin, TX</b>	107.8	\$34.30	\$87,000
<b>New River Valley, VA</b>	94.5	\$19.14	\$70,050

#1 BEST PLACE IN U.S. TO RAISE KIDS (BLACKSBURG) -Bloomberg Businessweek (2011)

#7 MOST SECURE/SAFE SMALL METRO -Farmers Insurance (2013)

#7 HOTTEST MUSIC FESTIVAL (FLOYD FEST) -FOX News Travel (2016)

#11 BEST TAILGATE EXPERIENCE (VIRGINIA TECH) -Southern Living (2017)

#14 SMARTEST METRO IN THE U.S. -Lumosity (2013)

TOP PADDLE TOWN (PEMBROKE) -Canoe & Kayak Mag. (2016)

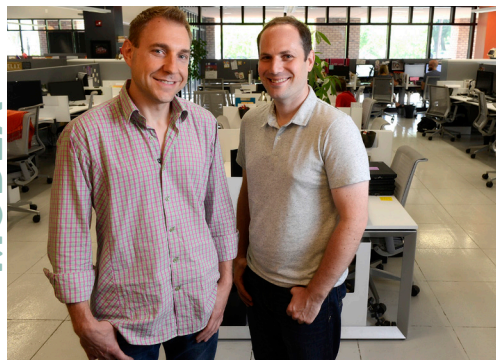
PULASKI YANKEES HOMEFIELD ADVANTAGE AWARD WINNER -Esurance (2016-17)



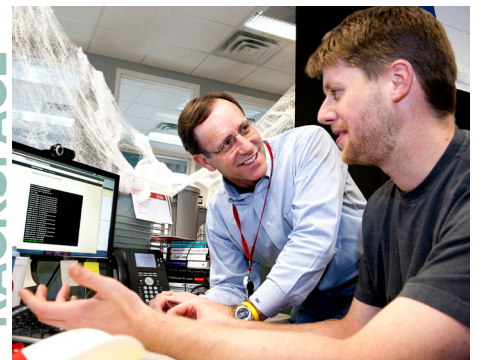
QUALTRAX



MODEA



RACKSPACE



Onward New River Valley is a regional economic development organization and the parent organization for the Virginia's New River Valley brand.

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