COMMONWEALTH *of* VIRGINIA

Virginia Information Technologies Agency

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Virginia Information Technologies Agency Marks 10th Anniversary
-Governor Congratulates VITA Staff at Event-

RICHMOND - . Governor Bob McDonnell spoke Monday at an event marking the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) thanking employees for their efforts and successes over the past decade.

A decade ago, VITA was created by the Virginia General Assembly to be the Commonwealth's consolidated information technology (IT) organization. VITA was charged with broad responsibilities for providing IT services, IT governance and procurement, and e-911 and geospatial mapping offerings.

"Virginia is the IT capital of the East Coast," said Governor McDonnell. "And IT is important to state government as well. The contributions made by VITA staff have provided an IT program that greatly benefits state agencies and places employees at those agencies in a better position to more efficiently and effectively serve our citizens."

Governor McDonnell thanked Commonwealth Chief Information Officer (CIO) Sam Nixon and VITA staff for the work they have done over the past decade and successes achieved despite the challenges of combining IT services for executive branch agencies.

He noted that VITA has helped the Commonwealth achieve major milestones in improved IT security on a state-wide scale, and accountability and transparency in IT systems across state agencies.

Currently, 86 of 89 executive branch agencies have transformed to a modern, secure and agile IT infrastructure (network, mainframes, servers, personal computers, email, etc.), many of which were completed in the last two years alone. The Commonwealth's ability to measure and improve performance advanced significantly, and the Commonwealth and its citizens are realizing the benefits of this investment of time, effort and money in IT, Governor McDonnell noted.

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Secretary of Technology Jim Duffey noted that Governor McDonnell is committed to using technology for the benefit of state government. He said accomplishments to date are a direct result of the work of VITA staff members and thanked them for their efforts.

"As a behind-the-scenes service provider, sometimes the efforts of this agency go unnoticed, but I am immensely proud of what we have been able to accomplish," said CIO Sam Nixon. "Our work directly with citizens is limited, but our work every day is entirely focused on improving citizen interaction with state agencies, making the security of citizen information a top priority and ensuring tax dollars spent on IT are done so wisely and with accountability. It's important to note that we would not be where we are today without the efforts of the dedicated, innovative and hard-working employees of VITA."

CIO Nixon also thanked employees at other state agencies for the work they have done and the cooperation they have offered VITA over the past 10 years.

The scale and complexity of the undertaking for VITA was vast, and the technical expertise and investment required to accomplish it was significant. Nothing on the scale of this project exists in other state government IT programs, Nixon noted.

Monday's event, held at VITA's headquarters at the Commonwealth Enterprise Solutions Center in Chester, was an observance of the work of VITA employees. Several dignitaries who have helped VITA achieve successes over the years also attended to recognize the agency's accomplishment.

About the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA)
VITA is the commonwealth's consolidated technology services and solutions provider responsible for the state's technology infrastructure, governance, security, oversight of major IT projects, and procurement of technology-related goods and services on behalf of state and local governments. www.vita.virginia.gov.