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## **Agency leaders to serve on CIO Council, advise VITA**

RICHMOND, VA -- Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the Commonwealth George Coulter today announced he is forming a CIO Council to provide state agencies additional input into decision-making regarding information technology (IT).

Coulter said 14 executive branch agency IT and business leaders will serve on the council. Nine represent large agencies, three represent medium-sized agencies and two represent small agencies. Those serving on the council and the agencies they represent include:

- Linda Belflower, Virginia Employment Commission
- Dave Burhop, Department of Motor Vehicles
- Dr. Jim Burns, Virginia Department of Health
- Bethann Canada, Department of Education
- Prin Cowan, Motor Vehicle Dealer Board
- Rick Davis, Virginia Department of Corrections
- Maurion Edwards, Department of General Services
- Robert Hobbleman, Department of Social Services
- Sharon Kitchens, Department of Taxation
- Rick Phillips, Department of Accounts
- Murali Rao, Virginia Department of Transportation
- Todd Richardson, Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy
- David Simmons, Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- Val Thomson, Department of Environmental Quality

“This council will actively participate in discussions leading to decisions that permit the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) and me to better meet agencies’ IT needs,” CIO Coulter said. “I expect it will make recommendations regarding how to improve the IT services that we provide and to let us know how the decisions we are making impact their agencies.

“The CIOs are being asked to represent the concerns of other state agencies in their executive branch secretariats,” Coulter said. “It also is important that the CIO Council members have the opportunity to interact with and be heard by the Information Technology Investment Board (ITIB) when representing the agencies.” The ITIB oversees state IT investments and VITA.

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The council will meet for a half-day kick-off session to determine its mission and objectives, and then is expected to meet on a regular basis or as business needs dictate. The VITA director of customer account management and the Northrop Grumman VITA program manager will join the council's discussions.

Coulter was named CIO by the ITIB on Aug. 20. In that role, he heads up VITA, which is the state agency overseeing the 10-year, \$1.9 billion contract with Northrop Grumman to upgrade the executive branch IT infrastructure – networks, servers, computers, messaging, facilities and more. In addition to the IT infrastructure, VITA is responsible for IT governance, information security, IT procurement, enterprise applications, geographic mapping and enhanced 9-1-1 services. VITA also enters into contracts that permit state agencies and localities to purchase IT and telephone services at bulk rates.

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