

**Fairfax County (Virginia USA)  
Economic Development Authority  
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Fairfax County NEWS is a newsletter of the FCEDA which promotes Fairfax County, minutes away from Washington, DC as a business and technology centre.

### **VIRGINIA GOVERNOR AT NOVEMBER EVENT**

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Virginia Governor Timothy Kaine will be the headline speaker at this year's big Fairfax County Economic Development Authority London networking reception in November.

Plans for the event, which will be in the historic Inner Temple Hall, are now all but finalised. The event will once again be sponsored by a group of world class US and UK companies who have found for themselves how a presence in Fairfax County, on the doorstep of the US Federal Government, pays dividends.

The event is entitled: "Trans-Atlantic Business Networking Evening". The presence of so many major players in this field explains why it has become so popular with hundreds of UK and US businesses in recent years. The event will start at 5.45pm at the Inner Temple Hall, Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, Crown Office Row, London EC4Y 7HL on Tuesday 14th November 2006.

Governor Kaine is expected to speak at around 6.10pm on the advantages a base in Fairfax County and Virginia can bring, especially when it comes to working with the biggest purchaser of supplies in the world – the US Federal Government. Also speaking will be the President and CEO of the FCEDA, Dr Gerald Gordon, who commented: "This will be the Fairfax County EDA's fifth major networking reception in London and we are convinced it will be a huge success for the businesses and organisations that attend. We are honoured that Governor Kaine will be here to recognize the importance of these trans-Atlantic business connections."

The US Commercial Service is supporting the event as is BritishAmerican Business and SEEDA, the South East England Development Association. Commercial sponsors include Serco, the international service company, international lawyers Crowell & Moring, executive search organisation Dahl Morrow, business text messaging service 2SMS, accountants FW Stephens and technology company EDS.

Later that week the FCEDA will host an event in Manchester, working with Manchester Chamber Link to spell out the support and assistance the FCEDA can offer North West firms looking to expand into the US.

### **TOPS FOR ENTREPRENEURS**

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Fairfax County is one of the best places in the US to start a business, according to Entrepreneur Magazine. In a report this month, the magazine ranks Fairfax County second in the US among large counties for entrepreneurs looking to start a business. Virginia ranked itself second in the US among states, behind Arizona. The Washington/Baltimore region ranked sixth nationally among metropolitan areas.

The FCEDA is eager to take some of the credit for the county's strong showing. The business development group hosts monthly "Starting a Business in Fairfax County" workshops, and offers weekly business counselling sessions at its headquarters. Inc. Magazine has also just released its annual list of the US' 500 fastest-growing companies. The list, which ranked the Washington region number one for the fourth consecutive year, included 22 companies in Fairfax County.

## **MOST EDUCATED REGION**

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Analysis of the US national census also shows that the movement of college graduates to Greater Washington helped the region hold its top spot as the nation's most educated metropolitan region. The analysis shows that the region's population grew and the percentage of the adult population with Bachelor's degrees increased from 42.5% to 45.9% between 2000 and 2005. The national average is 27.2%.

Greater Washington also tops the list for the percentage of adults with advanced degrees; the percentage rose from 19% in 2000 to 21.3% in 2005, more than twice the national average of 9.9%.

## **HIGHEST MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

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Fairfax County again ranks first among large US counties (population 500,000 plus) with the highest median household income in 2005, according to US Census Bureau data. Fairfax County ranked first among large counties in 2004 as well. The county had a 2005 median household income of \$94,600, (£49,789) while the 2004 median household income was \$88,133 (£46,385). All the numbers reflect inflation-adjusted dollars.

"High income levels are one result of Fairfax becoming an employment centre that attracts a tremendous number of technology and professional services firms," said Dr Gordon. "In just the first half of the year, the Fairfax County EDA has worked with 73 companies that will add more than 3,400 jobs to the local economy."

Please pass Fairfax County **News** on to friends and colleagues if you wish. And if you would like to contribute opinions e-mail them to us. Our e-mail address is: [info@fairfaxcountyeda.co.uk](mailto:info@fairfaxcountyeda.co.uk)

### **About FCEDA:**

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority ( [www.FairfaxCountyEDA.org](http://www.FairfaxCountyEDA.org) ) promotes Fairfax County, minutes away from Washington, DC, as a business and technology centre. Domestic and international marketing staffs work with US and foreign companies interested in expanding and relocating operations. The FCEDA assists businesses by identifying possible sites and facilities, and provides demographic and economic statistics. The FCEDA's Capital Attraction Programme links technology entrepreneurs with potential investors. The FCEDA maintains overseas offices in Silicon Valley, Bangalore, Frankfurt, London, Seoul and Tel Aviv.

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