



Tech Tracks: Engage, Explore, Experience, Empower is a comprehensive career development initiative created in partnership between Virginia Tech and New River Valley high schools. This program is designed to provide students with a structured pathway from high school to meaningful employment, whether it's a summer job, internship, or a full- or part-time role upon graduation.

The journey begins with the **Engage** phase, where Virginia Tech professionals visit local high schools to connect with students. These visits include interactive sessions on resume building, interview skills, and career readiness, ensuring that students are well-prepared to take their first steps into the professional world.

Next, students are invited to the Virginia Tech campus for the **Explore** phase, where they participate in the Tech Tracks event. Here, students can choose from a variety of career tracks, such as IT, Hospitality, Finance, Science, Public Safety, and more. They will meet with industry experts, gain insights into career paths, and learn about the opportunities available to them right after high school.

The **Experience** phase offers a deeper dive into their chosen fields through a Job Shadow Day. This hands-on experience allows students to spend a day alongside a professional mentor, observing and participating in daily work activities. Whether in a 1:1 or 2:1 student-to-professional ratio, they will gain a true understanding of the responsibilities and environment within their selected career, preparing them for future success.

Finally, the program culminates in the **Empower** phase, where students are guided in applying for summer jobs, internships, or direct employment with Virginia Tech or local organizations. This phase is designed to ensure that students not only leave high school with a clear career path but also with real-world experience and employment opportunities in their community.