st. mary's county MARYLAND

Strategic Plan for an Innovation-Driven Economy

Strategic Priorities

Grow these industries:
- advanced manufacturing
- unmanned and autonomous systems (UAS)
- aviation and aircraft modification
- tourism
- agriculture and aquaculture

Attract and retain a young, talented, and diverse workforce

Create a nurturing environment for innovation and entrepreneurship

Support and advance the mission of Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River and its tenant commands

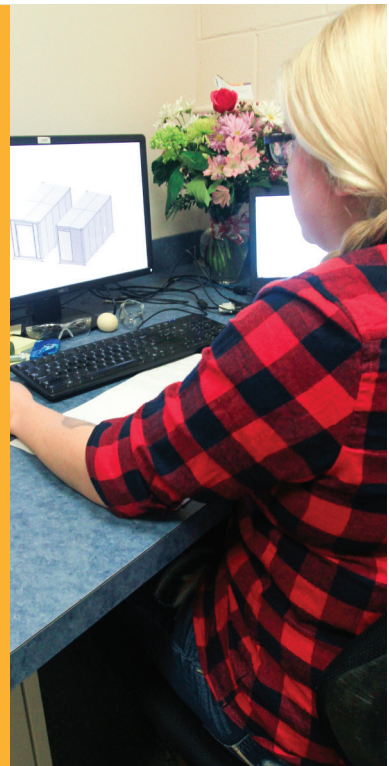## Attract & retain a young, talented, & diverse workforce

ACTIONS

- Work with the Town of Leonardtown to accelerate the development of a walkable and historic retail and entertainment district that draws residents and tourists.

- Recognize Lexington Park and the Town of Leonardtown as urban areas that attract younger residents seeking connections and cultural experiences.

- Expand the variety of housing for a younger workforce to include more affordable options.

- Promote the area's unique ability to provide high-wage jobs in a beautiful rural and coastal setting.

Create a nurturing environment for innovation & entrepreneurship

ACTIONS

- Promote networking and educational entrepreneurship programming such as meetups, hackathons, and pitch competitions.

- Support the success of technology incubator TechPort @ the Airport to grow startups focused on UAS and defense technology commercialization.

- Collaborate with public, non-profit, and private partners to transform the St. Mary's County Regional Airport area into the Airport Innovation District.

- Encourage an active angel investment and venture capital community.

Support and advance the mission of NAS Patuxent River and its tenant commands

ACTIONS

- Collaborate with NAVAIR to assess and address skill demands.
- Coordinate and strategize with base officials regularly about infrastructure needs and shared services.
- Support NAVAIR's mission to increase fleet readiness.
- Continue to prioritize land preservation efforts that restrict development that could impact base operations.

Grow these industries:

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING   **UAS**   **AVIATION & AIRCRAFT MODIFICATION**   **TOURISM**   **AGRICULTURE & AQUACULTURE**

ACTIONS

- Develop a coherent brand identity by collaborating with local targeted industries and economic development organizations.
- Prioritize business expansion, retention, and attraction efforts in the targeted industries.
- Define and address workforce skill gaps with industry and academic partners.
- Develop a robust UAS, aircraft modification, and advanced manufacturing ecosystem in conjunction with partners.
- Promote the County as a center of UAS excellence and innovation.
- Champion the new nonprofit tourism entity, "Visit St. Mary's MD," and improve the visitor experience.
- Assist local farmers in marketing value-added products and create opportunities for the direct sale of local produce and specialty products.

st mary's county

take flight

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