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## **Vision Shared Releases 2013 Economic Development Update**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Despite some improvements, West Virginia continues to lag behind according to Vision Shared’s 2013 Performance Measures Report. The report, which has tracked the states progress in key economic indicators since 2006 against national and regional averages, is now available on online at [www.visionshared.com](http://www.visionshared.com).

The report indicates improvement in West Virginia’s position in 35 of 55 benchmarks. Most notable is West Virginia’s improvement in Workers Compensation Index Rates; now well below the regional average. Other highlights include West Virginia’s low unemployment rate when compared with national levels; and growing GED attainment rates among adults in the state.

“With the support of our board and volunteer committees, Vision Shared continues to proactively promote collaborations in improving West Virginia’s position in areas defined by the report,” said Rebecca McPhail Randolph President/CEO of Vision Shared. “Vision Shared’s ability to convene diverse interests including business, labor and government provides a unique opportunity for our organization to build consensus for positive change.”

The 2013 Performance Measures Report provides background information on Vision Shared’s four focus areas: education, research and commercialization, workforce development, and entrepreneurship. The report also assess West Virginia’s progress in achieving the objectives outline in an implementation plan developed by Market Street Services and released by Vision Shared in 2001. The original plan indicated a need for economic development performance measures to gauge the progress of West Virginia along with consistent tracking of these measures.

For more information contact Rebecca McPhail Randolph at 304-767-5189. Print copies of the report are available by request.

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Vision Shared Inc. is a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan community and economic development organization in West Virginia. Its mission is to strengthen the economy, transform communities, promote progressive government and improve the quality of life for West Virginians. Learn more at [www.visionshared.com](http://www.visionshared.com).