

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

**130,000 People in South Hampton Roads Can't Read
Opportunity Inc. to Host Summit to Address Issue**

WHAT: Opportunity Inc., Hampton Roads' Workforce Development Network, is hosting a literacy summit to encourage organizations that provide literacy support to collaborate and use established best practices.

WHY: Literacy is a serious issue in Hampton Roads.

- One of every five children will start school with a reading disability
- More than 20 percent of adults read at, or below, the fifth-grade level
- A nonreader earns 42 percent less than a high school graduate

Source: Virginia Department of Education

WHO: **Featured speakers include:**

8:45 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Mayor Paul Fraim, Norfolk
9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Belle Wheelan, Ph.D., Secretary of Education, Virginia
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Jeff Hayward, Vice President of Public Policy, United Way, Massachusetts

WHEN: Friday, May 3, 2002
8:30 to 4 p.m.

WHERE: Holiday Inn Select
Norfolk Airport

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****Interviews with keynote speakers and community residents who have benefited from literacy programs can be arranged.****

Event sponsors and contributors include:
Opportunity Inc., Hampton Roads' Workforce Development Network; The Norfolk Foundation; The Virginia Beach Foundation; The Norfolk Literacy Partnership; The Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education; WHRO