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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shape of the Region Conference *Opportunity Index Set the Stage for Panel Discussion*

February 21, 2018 (Oakton, VA) – The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia and the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce co-hosted the Shape of the Region conference on February 15, 2018 at Valo Park in Tysons Corner, Virginia. Nearly 300 registered guests attended the event. Keynote speakers included Michael Cassidy, President & CEO, Commonwealth Institute, and Richard Reeves, Senior Fellow of Economic Studies and Co-Director of the Center on Children and Families at the Brookings Institution.

The Shape of the Region conference presenters discussed our region's prosperity and vitality within a greater context of how to share the benefits of our rising region with all who live and work here. "We were humbled and encouraged by the response we have received following the event and were left with the feeling that it underscores something already reflected in our community – a growing sense of home and place, a recognition of a path forward that marries our economic strength and the full breadth of our diverse community, and a deepening understanding of what is possible, together," said Eileen Ellsworth, President and CEO of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia.

The Community Foundation unveiled a new, dynamic tool at this event that helped ground the conversations with local data – the Opportunity Index for Northern Virginia (www.cfnova.org/opportunityindex). Viewed in dashboard format from the Community Foundation's website, and updated annually so that trends emerge, the Opportunity Index will be our region's report card. It displays 26 indicators of our civic, social, economic, and educational wellbeing, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, nativity, and jurisdiction. Two of the stories that have already emerged from the data were featured during the conference: our region's workforce development challenges and opportunities, and our region's growing income inequality.

Each of these topics were discussed and explored through panel discussions. The opportunity and inequality panel was moderated by Erin Hogan, Philanthropic Market Executive - Southeast, U.S. Trust. Panelists will include Tamara Copeland, President, Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers; David Hunn, President & CEO, SkillSource Group, Inc.; and Dr. Bruce McDade, Superintendent, Manassas Park Public Schools.

The panel discussing workforce development challenges was moderated by Scott Ralls, President, Northern Virginia Community College. Panelists included Ken Eisner, Senior Manager, Worldwide Education Programs and Global Lead, Amazon Web Services; Lovey Hammel, President, Employment Enterprises, Inc.; Jacqueline M. Welsh, Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Diversity & Inclusion, Freddie Mac.

To view photos from this event please visit <http://bit.ly/2EnvE3i>. Presentations from the event are available [here](#).

To stay informed about the topics covered at this event, please contact the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia's office at 703-879-7640.

Support for this event was provided by U.S Trust (Gold level), The SkillSource Group, Inc. (Silver level), and the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (Bronze Level).

About The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia grows philanthropy to respond to critical need and seed innovation in the region. Comprised of donor advised funds, permanent funds, giving circles, and other charitable endowments, the Community Foundation connects donors to community, and helps meet community needs with community resources.

In 2017 the Community Foundation awarded more than \$4.7 million in grants and scholarships and reported \$47 million in managed philanthropic assets.

For more information please visit us at www.cfnova.org , on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityFoundationforNOVA/>, Twitter <https://twitter.com/CFNova>, and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/communityfoundationfornova/>.

About the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce

The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce (Northern Virginia Chamber), The Voice of Business in Northern Virginia™, is the preeminent Northern Virginia membership organization for businesses to grow through relationship building and partnership engagement throughout the Greater Washington region. 700 organizations and 500,000 employees strong, the Northern Virginia Chamber is the largest chamber of commerce in Northern Virginia and has been working hand-in-hand with regional businesses, government, and academia to build a robust and innovative business community for more than 90 years. To learn more about the Northern Virginia Chamber, please visit <http://www.novachamber.org> and follow the Northern Virginia Chamber on Twitter: @NOVACHamber and @NOVACHamber_CEO.

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