



Blue Ridge  
Section

## November Meeting Announcement

Visit our website  
[www.asqsection1108.org](http://www.asqsection1108.org)

### Topic: SRI's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce Transitions Project

**Date:** Thursday, November 13, 2008

**Speaker:** Sharon Johnson

**Location:**

Cranberry's Grocery & Eatery  
7 South New Street  
Staunton, VA 24401  
540.885.4755

[www.goCranberrys.com](http://www.goCranberrys.com)

**Menu:**

Veggie tray before the meeting, Soup and sandwiches for dinner, cookies for dessert, water, iced tea, hot coffee for beverages.

**Time:** 6:00 Cash bar  
6:30 Dinner  
7:00 Program

**Cost:** \$20 (check or cash only)

Please contact Ray Schumin at [rschumin@specialtyblades.com](mailto:rschumin@specialtyblades.com) or by phone at (540) 290-2797 by **Monday, November 10th**. Remember to indicate whether you'll be eating with us, or if you'll be attending the presentation only.

**Directions to Cranberry's:** Take exit 222 off interstate 81. Go right at the end of the exit ramp – onto Richmond Road/Hwy250 – move into left lane and begin counting stoplights. At the 9th stoplight (intersection with Hwy11), turn right from the left-hand lane and head under the viaduct. Immediately on the other side of the viaduct, turn left onto Commerce/Greenville/Johnson. Go two short blocks to the corner of Johnson and New streets. Park in the parking garage on that corner. Cranberry's is about 25 paces up New Street from the parking garage, on your right. [Directions to Cranberry's](#)

#### Presentation

**SRI International** is building a new drug research facility in the new Rockingham Center for Research and Technology, north of Harrisonburg. For our November dinner meeting, speaker **Sharon Johnson** will provide an overview of SRI's *21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce Transitions Project*, an initiative to help regional leadership prepare a workforce that can meet the demands of a transitioning economy.

SRI International is one of the world's largest independent, nonprofit research and development organizations, originally founded as the Stanford Research Institute in 1946. In December 2006, SRI announced its new Center for Advanced Drug Research (CADRE) based in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The center focuses on state-of-the-art pharmaceutical research. SRI intends to create more than 100 new jobs in the region over the course of 10 years. SRI's Virginia expansion is in partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia, Rockingham County, the City of Harrisonburg, JMU, and other Virginia institutions of higher education. Until its new offices are completed, SRI is operating out of JMU facilities.

#### Speaker

**Sharon Johnson** is a Senior Consultant for SRI International, Policy Division, Center for Education Policy. She is the regional Project Director for implementation planning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce Transitions project. She works closely with economic development, education, workforce investment, and community organizations and supports the work of the Transitions Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Employer Review Committee, and task forces.

Ms. Johnson has more than 15 years experience in corporate training, workforce development, project management and learning related consulting. Prior to joining SRI, she was director of community based job training at Blue Ridge Community College, project director for regional workforce development for Manufacturing, Healthcare and Technology with the Shenandoah Valley Workforce Investment Board and director of implementation strategies and services for American Software, Inc. in Atlanta, GA.

Ms. Johnson has a Master of Science degree in Adult Education and Human Resource Development from James Madison University and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Human Capital Development through the University of Southern Mississippi.

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