



**2018 VIRGINIA  
EDUCATION SUMMIT**

*Joint Meeting of the Senate Education & Health  
and House Education Committees*

# Welcome!

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UNIVERSITY OF  
RICHMOND.

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<b>MONDAY OCTOBER 15, 2018</b>	<b>VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>GATEWAY EVENT CENTER</b>
<b>1:00 PM – 1:15 PM</b>	<b>Registration and Lunch</b> <i>(Lunch for members, staff, and presenters)</i>	<b>PRESIDENTS ROOM</b>
<b>1:00 PM – 1:15 PM</b>	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>	<b>SALON A &amp; B</b>
<p><b>Laura Fornash</b>, Foundation Board Member, The Hunt Institute   Senior Vice President, McGuireWoods Consulting, LLC  <b>Senator Steve Newman</b>, Senate District 23, Chairman, Senate Education &amp; Health Committee  <b>Delegate Steven Landes</b>, House District 25, Chairman, House of Delegates Education Committee  <b>Dr. Makola Abdullah</b>, President, Virginia State University</p>		
<b>1:15 PM – 2:15 PM</b>	<b>Early Childhood Education</b>	<b>SALON A &amp; B</b>
<p><i>This session will explore the connections between early childhood and the rest of the education continuum, with a focus on how to ensure that all young people enter kindergarten ready to learn. Panelists will discuss the work underway to remove barriers to resources, including high-quality education opportunities for our youngest learners and supports for parents most in need.</i></p> <p><b>Opening Remarks:</b> <b>Delegate Lamont Bagby</b>, House District 74  <b>Introduction:</b> <b>First Lady Pamela Northam</b>, Commonwealth of Virginia</p> <p><b>Resource Experts:</b> <b>Dr. Rebecca Berlin</b>, Senior Vice President, Quality, Solutions and Impact, Ounce of Prevention  <b>Jenna Conway</b>, Chief School Readiness Officer, Virginia Governor’s Children’s Cabinet</p>		
<b>2:15 PM – 3:15 PM</b>	<b>Teacher Development and Retention</b>	<b>SALON A &amp; B</b>
<p><i>This session will explore innovative initiatives to provide meaningful growth and advancement opportunities for our best teachers and ways to leverage these exemplary teachers to help others grow and develop.</i></p> <p><b>Opening Remarks:</b> <b>Senator Mamie Locke</b>, Senate District 2  <b>Introduction:</b> <b>Delegate David Bulova</b>, House District 37</p> <p><b>Resource Experts:</b> <b>Stephanie Dean</b>, Vice President of Strategic Policy Advising, Opportunity Culture, Senior Consulting Manager, Public Impact  <b>Dr. Robert C. Pianta</b>, Dean, University of Virginia Curry School of Education and Human Development</p>		
<b>3:00 PM – 3:15 PM</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>3:15 PM – 4:15 PM</b>	<b>School Leadership Development</b>	<b>SALON A &amp; B</b>
<p><i>This session will establish a clear understanding of the critical role school leaders play in the success of students and schools and in the development and retention of highly effective teachers. Participants will share lessons learned from innovative leadership programs that train and recruit leaders for hard-to-staff rural and urban schools.</i></p> <p><b>Opening Remarks:</b> <b>Delegate Richard Bell</b>, House District 20</p> <p><b>Resource Experts:</b> <b>Andy Cole</b>, Consultant, Wallace Foundation  <b>Dr. Robert N. Corley, III</b>, Associate Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs, SCHEV Liaison and Project Director, Wallace Foundation UPPI, Virginia State University  <b>Dr. Bonnie Fusarelli</b>, University Faculty Scholar, NC State University;  Director of The Northeast Leadership Academy</p>		

4:15 PM – 4:30 PM	Break	
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM	Professional Perspectives   Leadership & Excellence in Action	SALON A & B
<p><i>To further the learning from previous sessions, legislators will engage in small group discussions with outstanding principal and teacher leaders from across the state to get their on-the-ground perspectives on how to strengthen the educator and leadership pipeline in Virginia.</i></p>		
<p><b>Educators:</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Melinda Boone</b>, Superintendent, Norfolk City Public Schools  <b>Dr. Margie Stallings</b>, Principal, Booker T. Washington High School</p> <p><b>Dr. Andrea Whitmarsh</b>, Superintendent, Greene County Public Schools  <b>Danielle Alicea</b>, Principal, Nathanael Greene Primary School</p> <p><b>Dr. Michael Gill</b>, Superintendent, Hanover County Public Schools  <b>Dr. John Wheeler</b>, Principal, Atlee High School</p> <p><b>Dr. Marcus Newsome</b>, Superintendent, Petersburg City Schools  <b>April Hawkins</b>, Principal, Petersburg High School</p>	
5:15 PM – 5:30 PM	Break	
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Reception	VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Dinner & Discussion   The Governor’s Initiative	MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER
<p><i>Secretary of Education Atif Qarni will deliver opening remarks about the governor’s education priorities for the state. Superintendent James Lane and President Daniel Gecker will then join Secretary Qarni to discuss how the Department of Education and the Board of Education plan to work toward those priorities.</i></p>		
<p><b>Introduction:</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <p><b>Resource Experts:</b></p> <p><b>Closing Remarks:</b></p>	<p><b>Delegate Steven Landes</b>, House District 25, Chairman, House of Delegates Education Committee</p> <p><b>Dr. Billy K. Cannaday, Jr.</b>, Former President, Virginia Board of Education</p> <p><b>Daniel Gecker</b>, President, Virginia Board of Education  <b>Dr. James Lane</b>, Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction  <b>Atif Qarni</b>, Secretary of Education, Commonwealth of Virginia</p> <p><b>Senator Steve Newman</b>, Senate District 23, Chairman, Senate Education &amp; Health Committee</p>	

**TUESDAY  
OCTOBER 16, 2018**

**UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND, JEPSON ALUMNI CENTER**

**7:00 AM – 7:45 AM**

**Breakfast** (*Breakfast for members, staff and presenters*)

**ROBINS PAVILION**

**8:00 PM – 8:15 PM**

**Welcome and Reflection**

**ROBINS PAVILION**

**Senator Steve Newman**, Senate District 23, Chairman, Senate Education & Health Committee  
**Delegate Steven Landes**, House District 25, Chairman, House of Delegates Education Committee  
**Dr. Ronald Crutcher**, President, University of Richmond

**8:15 AM – 9:15 AM**

**School Funding**

**ROBINS PAVILION**

*The session will explore the ways in which states are building sustainable school funding systems, with discussions on the challenges and benefits of weighted-student funding, how to structure teacher compensation, including pensions, and how states are balancing equity issues in the age of school funding lawsuits.*

**Opening Remarks:** **Delegate Glenn Davis**, House District 84

**Resource Experts:** **Chad Aldeman**, Principal, Policy & Thought Leadership, Bellwether Education Partners  
**Emily Parker**, Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States

**9:15 AM – 10:15 AM**

**Higher Education | Liberal Arts Education in the 21st Century**

**ROBINS PAVILION**

*As policymakers' attention increasingly focuses on technical fields, this session will discuss the role that liberal arts colleges can play in educating the workforce of the future. Topics will include how these schools produce graduates with unique skillsets, how partnerships can strengthen their work, and how technical skills can be better integrated into their curricula.*

**Opening Remarks:** **Delegate James Leftwich**, House District 78

**Resource Experts:** **Dr. Ronald Crutcher**, President, University of Richmond  
**Dr. Katherine Rowe**, President, College of William and Mary  
**James E. Ryan**, President, University of Virginia

**10:15 AM – 10:30 AM**

**Break**

**10:30 AM – 11:30 AM**

**Career Pathways and Innovative Approaches to Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness**

**ROBINS PAVILION**

*This session will discuss innovative ways that high schools are reforming to improve opportunities for students to prepare for postsecondary education and the workforce, including Cambridge assessments, career academies, dual enrollment, and other innovative high school models.*

**Opening Remarks:** **Delegate Roxann L. Robinson**, House District 27

**Introduction:** **Delegate Mark Keam**, House District 35

**Resource Experts:** **Dr. Jeffery Smith**, Hampton City Schools Superintendent  
**Zuzana Steen**, University, Academic, and Community Relations Manager, Micron Technology

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Continual Education

ROBINS PAVILION

*Many workers in Virginia will be displaced by automation or a decline in demand for a given skillset in the coming years. This session will discuss the impact that the demands of tomorrow's economy will have on our existing education systems and the need for workers to remain connected to ongoing learning opportunities.*

**Opening Remarks:** **Senator Barbara Favola**, Senate District 31

**Introduction:** **Delegate Chris Collins**, House District 29

**Resource Experts:** **Peter Blake**, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

**Kevin Carey**, Vice President, Education and Policy Management, New America

**Megan Healy**, Chief Workforce Development Advisor, Office of the Governor

12:30 PM

Closing Remarks

ROBINS PAVILION

**Dr. Javaid Siddiqi**, President & CEO, The Hunt Institute

**Delegate Steven Landes**, House District 25, Chairman, House of Delegates Education Committee

**Senator Steve Newman**, Senate District 23, Chairman, Senate Education & Health Committee

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM

**Lunch** (*Boxed lunches for members, staff, and presenters*)

ROBINS PAVILION



**Senator Steve Newman**  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Education & Health

Senator Stephen Newman represents the 23rd district in the Senate of Virginia. He has been a state senator since 1996, and the membership of the Senate elected him to become the President Pro Tempore in 2016. Senator Newman has served as the Chairman of the Transportation Committee and the Education & Health Committee. In addition to these committees he also serves on the Rules, Commerce and Labor, and Finance committees in the Senate.

Senator Newman has championed the right for every child in Virginia to have the equal opportunity to access a first-rate education. He believes children learn in different ways and does not believe a “one size fits all” approach is best. As Chairman of the Senate Education & Health Committee, he supports reforms to improve Virginia’s Standard of Learning tests. Senator Newman served on the Governor’s Higher Education Reform Commission in 2010 and is responsible for carrying Governor Bob McDonnell’s education package successfully through the General Assembly.



**Delegate R. Steven Landes**  
Chairman, House of Delegates Education Committee

Delegate Steven Landes represents the 25th district in the Virginia House of Delegates. He is Chairman of the House Education Committee, Vice Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and a member of the Rules and Privileges and Elections committees.

Delegate Landes believes every child in Virginia, regardless of his or her zip code, deserves access to a high-quality education. As Chairman of the Education Committee, he supports reforms to improve and reduce Virginia’s Standard of Learning (SOL) tests and give schools more flexibility in the accreditation process. He introduced House Bill 1336, which requires colleges to develop a standardized system for granting credits to incoming students who have successfully completed AP courses.

Delegate Landes also serves as a House Budget Conferee and is a member of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates, the Major Employment and Investment Projects Approval Commission, the Education Commission of the States, and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.



**First Lady Pamela Northam**  
Commonwealth of Virginia

Pamela Northam became the First Lady of Virginia when her husband, Governor Ralph Northam, was sworn in as governor on January 13, 2018.

An educator, environmentalist and longtime advocate, Mrs. Northam has taken a leading role in Hampton Roads and Virginia to protect water quality and improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Most recently, the first lady has served as community outreach coordinator for Lynnhaven River NOW (LRN), a nonprofit environmental group. In this role, she oversaw advocacy and outreach programs for homeowners, congregations and businesses to help them to become more sustainable.

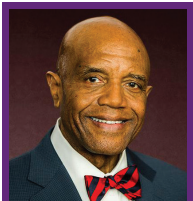
Prior to joining LRN, Mrs. Northam taught high school biology. Recognizing a need for STEM in elementary education, she became a national award-winning science specialist and worked to develop an inquiry-based, hands-on curriculum for students in grades K through 5. The first lady was appointed to the board of trustees of the Science Museum of Virginia, and she also is a board member of the innovative E3 School in Norfolk. After studying at Baylor University and the University of Texas, the first lady specialized in pediatric occupational therapy, where her work included rehabilitation hospitals, teaching hospitals, and special education.



**Dr. Makola Abdullah**  
President, Virginia State University

Makola M. Abdullah is the 14th President of Virginia State University (VSU). President Abdullah is an academic administrator committed to excellence. He is also an internationally-renowned educator recognized for outstanding research. Prior to his appointment as president of Virginia State University, Dr. Abdullah served as provost and senior vice president at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Fla. (2013-2016), provost and vice president for academic affairs at Florida Memorial University in Miami Gardens, Fla. (2011-2013), and dean and director of 1890 land grant programs at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Fla (2008-2011). In 2017, President Abdullah was named the HBCU Male President of the Year by HBCU Digest. He also was inducted into the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Alumni Hall of Fame.

Currently, Dr. Abdullah is the vice chair for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Board of Directors. He also serves as a member of the executive committee for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated and the 5000 Role Models of Excellence.



**Dr. Ronald Crutcher**  
President, University of Richmond

Ronald A. Crutcher, a national leader in higher education, a distinguished classical musician, and an accomplished administrator, is the 10th President of the University of Richmond. He took office on July 1, 2015. He is also a professor of music.

Dr. Crutcher is President Emeritus of Wheaton College in Massachusetts. As president from 2004–14, he raised the institution's profile; increased enrollment and diversity of the student body; created new interdisciplinary faculty positions and academic programs; and ensured the institution's financial stability during a challenging economic period for all of higher education. Wheaton students consistently garnered prestigious academic honors including Truman, Marshall, Goldwater, Rhodes, and Fulbright Scholarships. Prior to Wheaton, Dr. Crutcher was Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at Miami University of Ohio.

Throughout his career, Dr. Crutcher has actively promoted access, affordability, diversity, and inclusivity. He is a member of the Board of the Posse Foundation, a comprehensive college access and youth leadership development program for public high school students. In 2012, Dr. Crutcher received the Posse Star award, which recognized his leadership, significant contributions to the field of education, and positive effects on individual students' lives. As President of Richmond, he leads a highly selective private university that is one of the few institutions in the country that is both need-blind in admission decisions for domestic undergraduate students and committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all admitted students.





**Chad Aldeman**

**Principal, Policy & Thought Leadership, Bellwether Education Partners**

Chad Aldeman is a senior associate partner at Bellwether Education Partners, where he has worked on the Policy and Thought Leadership team since 2012, advising clients and writing on teacher preparation, teacher evaluation, and college and career readiness. He also serves as editor for TeacherPensions.org. Previously, Aldeman was a policy adviser in the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Education, where he worked on Elementary and Secondary Education Act waivers, teacher preparation, and the Teacher Incentive Fund. Prior to joining the department, Aldeman was a policy analyst with Education Sector.



**Delegate Lamont Bagby**

**House District 74**

Lamont Bagby serves in the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 74th district, which includes Charles City County, parts of Henrico County and the City of Richmond. Delegate Bagby was a member of the Henrico County School Board from 2008 to 2015, serving as chair in 2011. He was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in a special election on July 21, 2015. Delegate Bagby is a graduate of Henrico High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education from Norfolk State University as well as a master's degree in Education Leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University. Delegate Bagby also serves as the Director of Operations at the Peter Paul Development Center.



**Delegate Richard Bell**

**House District 20**

Delegate Richard P. "Dickie" Bell is Chairman of the Virginia House Education Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee. Delegate Bell, who has served in the House of Delegates since 2010, is a retired high school special education teacher.



**Dr. Rebecca Berlin**

**Senior Vice President, Quality, Solutions and Impact, Ounce of Prevention**

Dr. Rebecca Berlin is currently the Senior Vice President, Advancing Systems and Impact at the Ounce of Prevention Fund in Chicago. Prior to joining the Ounce, Dr. Berlin was the Chief Strategy Officer at Teachstone where she set the company's strategic vision while working with states and school districts nationwide to implement the CLASS system. In addition, she has worked in public and private schools as an early interventionist, an early childhood teacher, an early childhood special education teacher, an autism specialist, and a school administrator. She holds a Ph. D in research, policy, and administration from the University of Virginia.



**Peter Blake**

**Director, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia**

Peter Blake joined the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia as interim director in 2011 and became director in January 2012. He previously worked at SCHEV as an associate director. He also served as a fiscal analyst for the Virginia House Appropriations Committee; as deputy secretary of education and secretary of education under former Governor Mark Warner; and as vice chancellor of workforce development services for the Virginia Community College System. In 2017, Governor Terry McAuliffe appointed him to the Education Commission of the States. In 2016 he served as chair of the executive committee of State Higher Education Executive Officers. Blake is a two-time graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, with a B.A. in History and an M.S. in Mass Communications Management.



**Delegate David Bulova**  
House District 37

David Bulova was first elected to the General Assembly in November 2005. He currently serves on the General Laws, Education, and Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources committees. He is a member of the State Water Commission, Chesapeake Bay Commission, Housing Commission, the Joint Commission on Health Care, and the Virginia War Memorial Board. Delegate Bulova serves as Governor McAuliffe’s appointee to the Legislative Advisory Council to the Southern Region Education Board and the Legislative Advisory Board to the Virginia Water Resources Research Center, and was Governor Kaine’s appointee to the Commission on Climate Change.



**Dr. Billy K. Cannaday, Jr.**  
Former President, Virginia Board of Education

A veteran educator for more than 30 years, Dr. Billy Cannaday is a former superintendent of Hampton City Schools and Chesterfield County Public Schools as well as state superintendent of public instruction. As dean of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies at the University of Virginia, Dr. Cannaday worked across academic units to identify and leverage existing resources to reach off-campus students and expand distance-learning opportunities. Dr. Cannaday retired from the Board of Education and from his position as dean in 2017.



**Kevin Carey**  
Vice President, Education and Policy Management, New America

Kevin Carey is the vice president for education policy and knowledge management at New America and directs the Education Policy program. He writes regularly for The Upshot at The New York Times and has written feature articles for Wired, The New Republic, Pacific Standard, Washington Monthly, and other publications. He is a contributing writer for The Chronicle of Higher Education and edits the annual Washington Monthly college guide. His book, *The End of College: Creating the Future of Learning and the University of Everywhere* was published by Riverhead in 2015.



**Andy Cole**  
Consultant, Wallace Foundation

Andy Cole currently serves as a consultant with the Wallace Foundation working on special projects with a special emphasis on work with principal supervisors. Andy also serves as a reviewer for the Quality Measures process developed by Education Development Center (EDC) to assess the effectiveness of education leadership programs in and across the United States. For over 22 years Cole served in several leadership positions within Fairfax County Virginia Public Schools, including Director of Employee Performance and Development, Director of LEAD Fairfax – a Wallace Foundation first generation funded initiative for developing principals within the district – and most recently Director of Leadership Development until his retirement in 2010.



**Delegate Chris Collins**  
House District 29

Before becoming a delegate for the 29th District, Chris Collins had several different careers. He served in the Army National Guard from 1989-2005, was a respiratory therapist at the UVA Medical Center Critical Care Unit, a trust officer with F&M Bank in Winchester, a Deputy of Frederick County Sheriff’s Office, and an attorney at Inger and Collins. Currently he is a defense attorney with Buchbauer and McGuire in Winchester. Delegate Collins serves on several committees including Courts of Justice, Education, and Transportation. His work to support local businesses and the “Go Virginia” grant program earned him recognition as Freshman Legislator of the Year from the Virginia Chamber of Commerce.



**Jenna Conway**

**Chief School Readiness Officer, Virginia Governor’s Children’s Cabinet**

Jenna Conway has been appointed Chief Deputy at the Virginia Department of Education. Prior to her appointment, Jenna served as the Assistant Superintendent of Early Childhood at the Louisiana Department of Education, where she led a first-of-its-kind effort to unify and improve the state’s child care, Head Start, and pre-kindergarten systems since 2012. Conway has also previously held roles as Director of Strategic Planning and Enterprise Program Management at the New York City Housing Authority and Director of Project Management at Ashoka’s Changemakers in Washington, DC. Conway is a native of Charlottesville and holds a degree in American Studies from Yale University and a Master of Business Administration from Stanford University.



**Dr. Robert N. Corley, III**

**Associate Vice-Provost for Academic Affairs, SCHEV Liaison and Project Director, Wallace Foundation UPPI, Virginia State University**

Dr. Robert Corley, III, currently serves as the Interim Dean for the College of Education and as the Associate Vice-Provost for Graduate Programs at Virginia State University. Under his leadership and in collaboration with his colleagues, the College of Education remains NCATE/CAEP accredited and represents the largest component of graduate education at Virginia State University. Dr. Corley served the University as Assistant Vice-Provost for Graduate Programs and Member of the Institutional SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges) Fifth Year Interim Report Team.



**Delegate Glenn Davis**

**House District 84**

Glenn Davis represents the 84th House of Delegates District in the Virginia General Assembly and serves on the Education, Transportation, and General Laws Committees. He also serves as Vice Chairman of the Joint Commission on Technology and Science and chaired its Cyber Security subcommittee. His initiatives in economic development, regulatory and tax reform, and helping grow Virginia’s small businesses have earned him multiple awards and honors from the Virginia Chamber of Commerce.



**Stephanie Dean**

**Vice President of Strategic Policy Advising, Opportunity Culture, Senior Consulting Manager, Public Impact**

Stephanie Dean is vice president of strategic policy advising and a senior consulting manager at Public Impact. Her work focuses on identifying and cultivating state policy conditions that help schools extend the reach of excellent teachers. She has also written and advised clients on teacher preparation, teacher evaluation, school leadership, technology in rural education, competency-based assessment systems, and the development of “learner positioning systems” to create a platform for personalized learning. Before joining Public Impact, Dean led the Hunt Institute’s research and policy analysis team, identifying and analyzing key education policy issues to inform state leaders and foster information.



**Senator Barbara Favola**

**Senate District 31**

In the Virginia Senate, Barbara Favola is focusing her legislative efforts on women’s reproductive rights, health care access, K-12 education funding, workforce training, safety net programs, helping foster children, preventing domestic violence and sensible environmental policies. Prior to her election as a State Senator, she served on the Arlington County Board for fourteen years (1997-2011) and chaired that body three times. Senator Favola serves on Virginia’s Senate Local Government Committee, Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee, and Transportation Committee. Senator Favola was recently appointed to the Disability Commission and the Joint Committee to Study the Future of Public Education. Senator Favola serves on the Advisory Board of Virginia Tech’s School of Public and International Affairs.



**Laura Fornash**

**Board Member, The Hunt Institute & Senior Vice President, McGuireWoods Consulting**

Laura Fornash serves as a Senior Vice President at McGuireWoods Consulting, LLC. and as a member of The Hunt Institute Foundation Board of Directors. Prior to joining McGuireWoods, Fornash spent 27 years in public service including working in leadership roles at two higher education institutions. Most recently, she advised the President at the University of Virginia in her role as the Executive Assistant to the President for State Governmental Relations where she was responsible for advancing the University's priorities with the executive and legislative branches of government. She also served as the Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia where she led the development and implementation of the Governor's education priorities and provided guidance to the sixteen public universities, the Virginia Community College System, the Department of Education, and the state-supported museums, library, and Arts Commission.



**Dr. Bonnie Fusarelli**

**University Faculty Scholar, NC State University; Director of The Northeast Leadership Academy**

Dr. Bonnie Fusarelli is a professor in the Department of Educational Leadership, Policy, and Human Development at North Carolina State University. Her research focuses on educational leadership and policy, the politics of school improvement, educational equity, and organizational change, with a focus on state-level education reform and leadership development. She is also the director of the Northeast Leadership Academy, a practice-based principal preparation program.



**Daniel Gecker**

**President, Virginia Board of Education**

Daniel A. Gecker was appointed to the Board of Education by Governor Terry McAuliffe and was elected by the Board to serve as president in July 2017. Gecker is a partner in Urban Development Associates LLC, specializing in historical rehabilitation and urban revitalization. He was a member of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors from 2008 to 2014, serving as chairman in 2010 and 2012. Gecker has dedicated many years to community involvement through organizations including the Orchard House School Board, the Greater Richmond Partnership Board, and Bridging RVA.



**Megan Healy**

**Chief Workforce Development Advisor, Office of the Governor**

Megan Healy currently serves as the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Services and Employer Partnerships for the Virginia Community College System. In her current position, she helps oversee transfer and career and technical programs at 23 community colleges while working with K-12, higher education institutions, and businesses to build pathways to good jobs. Previously, she was the first Virginia director of STEM-H where she advised the Governor's Office and stakeholder groups on building a workforce for the 21st century. Healy started her career in Danville and Martinsville as a professor of health science, anatomy and physiology and microbiology. Healy received a bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech and continued graduate work at Virginia Commonwealth University and finished her doctorate at Old Dominion University.



**Delegate Mark Keam**

**House District 35**

Mark L. Keam represents the 35th District in the Virginia House of Delegates. As a legislator with a strong reputation for bipartisanship and effectiveness, Delegate Keam focuses on creating jobs, improving schools, addressing traffic gridlocks, reducing burdens on businesses, strengthening social safety nets, and making the government more transparent, efficient, and accountable. When the General Assembly is not in session, Delegate Keam serves as senior advisor in a technology company which he joined in early 2007 after twelve years of public service, in both executive and legislative branches of government.



**Dr. James Lane**  
Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dr. James F. Lane was appointed Virginia's 25th superintendent of public instruction in June 2018. As state superintendent, Dr. Lane serves as the executive officer of the Virginia Department of Education, which is the administrative agency for the commonwealth's public schools. He also serves as secretary of the state Board of Education. Prior to his appointment as the commonwealth's chief school officer, Dr. Lane served as a division superintendent in Chesterfield County, Goochland County and Middlesex County. He was recognized as the 2017 Virginia Superintendent of the Year for his leadership in Goochland County.



**Delegate James Leftwich**  
House District 78

Delegate James Leftwich was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2013 and was re-elected to a new term in 2017. During his tenure, he focused on three hallmarks of public education: Accountability, Preparing Students for College and the Workforce and Recruiting and Retaining Top Teachers. Delegate Leftwich graduated from James Madison University in 1985 and T.C. Williams School of Law with a J.D. in 1988.



**Senator Mamie Locke**  
Senate District 2

Senator Mamie Locke, Ph.D. serves on the Senate Education & Health Committee and was first elected to the chamber in 2003. Senator Locke received a bachelor's degree at Tougaloo College and a Master's and Ph.D. at Atlanta University. Previously, Senator Locke worked as dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Hampton University.



**Emily Parker**  
Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States

Emily Parker joined Education Commission of the States in December 2015 as a school finance policy analyst. In this role, Parker supports states on issues of school finance across the entire P-20 continuum, focusing on K-12 school funding formulas. Prior to joining Education Commission of the States, Parker worked at the Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. as a Senior Research Assistant. Emily earned both her bachelor's degree and her Masters of Public Policy from the University of Denver.



**Dr. Robert C. Pianta**  
Dean, University of Virginia Curry School of Education and Human Development

Dr. Robert Pianta is Dean of the Curry School of Education, Novartis US Foundation Professor of Education, Professor of Psychology, and founding director of the Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning at the University of Virginia. His research and policy interests focus on the intersection of education and human development. In particular, his work has been influential in advancing the conceptualization of teacher-student interactions and relationships and documenting their contributions to students' learning and development. Dr. Pianta has led research and development on measurement and improvement tools that help teachers interact with students more effectively and that are used widely in the United States and around the world.



**Atif Qarni**  
Virginia Secretary of Education

Prior to his appointment as Governor Northam’s Secretary of Education, Atif Qarni taught at Beville Middle School in Prince William County, leading courses in civics, economics, U.S History, and mathematics. He also served as a GED Night School Instructor. In 2016, Secretary Qarni was recognized as the Dale City Teacher of the Year. In addition to his work as an educator, Secretary Qarni is a former Sergeant of the United States Marine Corps and was deployed to Iraq in 2003 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has also served at the state level, having been appointed by Governor Terry McAuliffe to the Small Business Commission in 2013.



**Delegate Roxann L. Robinson**  
Virginia’s 27th District

As a member of the House Education Committee, Delegate Roxann L. Robinson is committed to ensuring that Chesterfield County’s public schools remain among the best in the Commonwealth. Delegate Robinson is an optometrist and small business owner. She serves on the Standards of Learning Innovation Committee, the General Laws, and Health, Welfare, and Institutions subcommittees.



**Dr. Katherine Rowe**  
President, College of William and Mary

William & Mary’s Board of Visitors on February 20, 2018 unanimously elected Dr. Katherine A. Rowe, a leader in digital innovation of the liberal arts and former provost of Smith College in Massachusetts, as the 28th president of the university. At Smith College, Dr. Rowe served as provost and dean of faculty. Dr. Rowe led academic strategy and planning, overseeing all academic operations. She led a senior team administering more than 600 faculty members and staff in 200 units. Dr. Rowe is cofounder and former CEO of Luminary Digital Media, which developed a series of educational apps enhancing student engagement and learning of classic Shakespearean texts.



**James E. Ryan**  
President, University of Virginia

On Sept. 15, 2017, the University of Virginia Board of Visitors selected James Ryan as the University’s next president. A respected and accomplished educator and legal scholar, Ryan earned his law degree from UVA and previously served on the School of Law faculty for 15 years. From 2013 to 2018, he served as dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Charles William Eliot Professor of Education.



**Dr. Javaid Siddiqi**  
President & CEO, The Hunt Institute

Former Virginia Secretary of Education Javaid Siddiqi is the President & CEO of The Hunt Institute. Most recently, he served as the director of the Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows, which partners with senior-level political leaders who have the knowledge, skill, and will to be effective, reform-minded education policymakers at the state level. Dr. Siddiqi began his career as a high school teacher, assistant principal, and as a principal in Chesterfield, Virginia, where he led the implementation of Expeditionary Learning – a nationally recognized school reform model. As Secretary of Education in Governor Bob McDonnell’s cabinet, he assisted in the development and implementation of the state’s education policy and provided guidance to 16 public universities, the Virginia Community College System, five higher education and research centers, the Department of Education, and the state-supported museums.



**Dr. Jeffery Smith**  
Hampton City Schools Superintendent

Dr. Jeffery Smith began his tenure as superintendent of Hampton City Schools in July 2015. During his previous seven years as the superintendent with the Town of West Point Public Schools in Virginia, the school division was recognized at the state and national levels for the students' stellar academic achievement. As an educator for more than 25 years, Dr. Smith has worked as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, and as an assistant superintendent in the areas of academic and instructional services, and as a superintendent. He earned his doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) and is a graduate of Virginia Union University and Virginia Commonwealth University.



**Zuzana Steen**  
Academic, and Community Relations Manager, Micron Technology

Zuzana Steen is the Academic and Community Relations Manager for Micron Technology, Inc. and with her extensive knowledge of educational institutions, industry and non-profits, she is responsible for connecting Micron with education and community partners. As a liaison to key constituencies in the area, Steen is working to foster positive relationships and strategic partnerships in the community around Micron Technology Virginia and throughout the Commonwealth. Prior to this, Steen worked as the Executive Director of HR Leadership Awards of Greater Washington c/o Marymount University and before then as the Assistant Director of Workforce Development and Head of International Relations at the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC).



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