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**DEVELOPING AFFORDABLE PATHWAYS FOR VIRGINIA'S TALENT:  
A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN BUSINESS AND EDUCATION**

# 2021 VIRGINIA EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 20, 2021 | [WWW.VACHAMBER.COM](http://WWW.VACHAMBER.COM)

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VIRGINIA 2030**

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Virginia Business Higher Education Council

VIRGINIA  
TALENT +  
OPPORTUNITY  
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CREATING PATHWAYS TO PROFESSIONS

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# 2021 VIRGINIA EDUCATION & WORKFORCE CONFERENCE

## *Speaker Biographies*



### **Barry DuVal** **President & CEO** **Virginia Chamber of Commerce**

Barry DuVal was named president and CEO of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce on April 28, 2010.

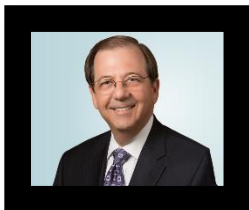
Under his leadership, the Chamber has become Virginia's largest business advocacy group, growing from 847 members in 2010 to more than 26,000 members today. In 2013, the Chamber produced Blueprint Virginia – the Commonwealth's first comprehensive business-led initiative to provide direction and long-term economic development planning for Virginia. In 2017, the Chamber released an update to the original Blueprint, Blueprint Virginia 2025, which engaged over 6,000 business and community leaders from around the Commonwealth to build an action plan for strengthening Virginia's economic competitiveness and getting Virginia back to the top of business climate rankings.

Barry's public service began in 1988 when he was elected to the Newport News City Council. In 1990 he was elected mayor of the city. He served as mayor from 1990 through 1996, when he stepped down to become the president and CEO of a regional economic development organization representing Southeast Virginia's 1.6 million citizens.

From 1998 through 2002 Barry served as the Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia. During his term as Secretary, Virginia attracted a record-setting 1,500 economic development projects representing 156,850 new jobs and \$13.7 billion in private investment.

His private sector experience includes serving as president and CEO of DuVal Associates, Inc, a diversified real estate firm, from 1983-1996. Upon the completion of his term as the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, he served as president and CEO of Kaufman & Canoles Consulting, LLC, an economic development consulting firm specializing in public-private partnerships and strategic planning for business and government agencies.

Barry holds a Master's (MLS) from American University Washington College of Law and a BS from James Madison University.



### **Alan Witt** **CEO Emeritus, PBMares** **Executive in Residence, Luter School of Business, Christopher Newport University Chair, Virginia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors**

Alan Witt currently serves as the Executive in Residence at the Luter School of Business at Christopher Newport University and as CEO Emeritus of PBMares, where he served as CEO from 1989-2021. Under his leadership, PBMares has strategically expanded to a leading Mid-Atlantic-based firm with a national presence as a top-100 accounting and business consulting firm.

A licensed CPA in Virginia, Alan has a passion for his chosen career and has served in multiple roles over the years, helping others expand their expertise. He has held several mentoring and leadership positions with groups like the

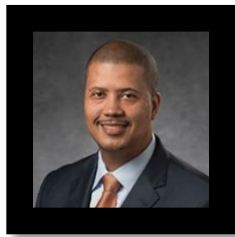
(Alan Witt Continued...)

RSM US Alliance of accounting firms, where he served on the Executive Advisory Board, and the VSCPA, where he has served on the Accounting and Auditing Task Force and committees focused on ethics and chapter activities. He also served on the AICPA's credit union committee and chaired the group that developed the AICPA Audits of Credit Unions Guide. Additionally, Alan was selected to sit on the national executive advisory board that formed the AICPA G-400 which advocates for the needs of the top 100-500 firms.

Alan's community efforts include serving on the boards of the Hampton Roads Business Roundtable, Reinvent Hampton Roads, TowneBank, the Peninsula Community Foundation, as well as the Virginia Chamber of Commerce where serves as Chair. He also held leadership roles with the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Newport News Industrial Development Authority, Christopher Newport University, Riverside Health System, and served as a Newport News City Council member.

Alan has a host of awards for his community service endeavors as well, including the Peninsula Humanitarian Award from the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities, the 2016 Community Builders Award, Bremond Lodge No. 241, the Distinguished Community Service Award from the Rotary Club of Oyster Point, the Daily Press Citizen of the Year Award, VSCPA's Public Servant of the Year and the Outstanding Member of the Year Award, CNU Outstanding Alumnus Accounting Chair #1 and CNU College of Business and Economics' Outstanding Alumni Award.

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**Edward Baine**  
**President, Dominion Energy Virginia**  
**Co-Chair of Blueprint Virginia 2030**

Edward H. "Ed" Baine is president–Dominion Energy Virginia.

He is responsible for all facets of Dominion Energy Virginia, a vertically integrated electric utility with generation, transmission and distribution assets that provides electric service to about 2.7 million customer accounts in Virginia and northeastern North Carolina.

Baine joined the company in 1995 as an associate engineer and since has held numerous engineering, operational and management positions. He was promoted to vice president–Shared Services in 2009 and became vice president–Power Generation Merchant Operations in 2012. He became vice president–Power Generation System Operations in 2013 and senior vice president–Transmission & Customer Service in 2015. In 2016, he was named senior vice president–Distribution, Power Delivery Group. He was named senior vice president—Power Delivery, Dominion Energy Virginia in 2019 and assumed his current position in October 2020.

Baine is a member of the boards of directors of the Dominion Energy Credit Union, ChamberRVA, Venture Richmond, and CJW Medical Center. In addition, he serves on the board of visitors at Virginia Tech and the boards of directors of the Southeastern Electric Exchange, the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund, MEGA Mentors, The Valentine museum, as well as on the executive committees of the EPRI Research Advisory and AEIC Power Delivery.

He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech and completed the advanced management program at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. He is a registered professional engineer.

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**Dennis Treacy**  
**Chair**  
**Virginia Business Higher Education Council**

Dennis is a fellow with the American College of Environmental Lawyers (ACOEL). He chairs the Virginia Business Higher Education Council (VBHEC), an organization that promotes quality affordable higher education to develop talent for Virginia businesses.

Dennis is retired from Smithfield Foods, Inc. where he served as President of the Smithfield Foundation and Executive Vice President and Chief Sustainability Officer for Smithfield Foods. In these roles, he directed many areas within the company, including government affairs, corporate communications, environmental programs, sustainability initiatives, charitable giving and the legal department.

In addition to the VBHEC, Dennis also serves or has served on dozens of state and national boards and commissions. He is a past board chair of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and a past chair of VIRGINIAforever, a unique environmental organization that has members from businesses and natural resource/environmental groups. He also is a past member of the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

Prior to joining Smithfield Foods in 2002, he served as director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. He also served as assistant attorney general in the natural resources section of the Virginia Attorney General's office. He is a 2010 "Distinguished Environmental Law Graduate" from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon, where he graduated in 1983. He completed his undergraduate degree in Forestry and Wildlife at Virginia Tech in 1978, and is a past Rector of its board of visitors.

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**Jennifer Hunter**  
**Senior Vice President, Corporate Citizenship**  
**Altria Client Services**

Jennifer Hunter serves as Senior Vice President, Corporate Citizenship for Altria Client Services. Jennifer leads the company's corporate responsibility efforts, including ESG, and its operating companies' efforts to help prevent underage tobacco use and help adult tobacco users who decide to quit be more successful. She has held this position since 2011. She now also leads the inclusion, diversity and equity work that is central to how Altria will achieve its

10-year Vision of responsibly leading the transition of adult smokers to a non-combustible future.

Jennifer has held a variety of roles in Philip Morris (PM USA) Sales, PM USA Youth Smoking Prevention & Corporate Responsibility, ALCS Corporate Responsibility & Stakeholder Relations and ALCS Corporate Communications. She joined PM USA in 1994 as a Territory Sales Manager in Kenosha, Wis. Jennifer holds a B.A. in journalism from the University of Wisconsin and is a member of the Executive Leadership Council. Jennifer also serves on the Boards of the Curry School of Education Foundation for the UVA School of Education and Human Development; as Chair of the ChamberWomen's Committee for the ChamberRVA Board; as the Board Vice-Chair for The Community Foundation Serving Richmond and Central Virginia; NextUp RVA; the Virginia Business Higher Education Council and on the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Fund Region 4 Council. Jennifer just completed her second term serving on the Virginia State University Board of Visitors.

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**The Honorable Terry McAuliffe**  
**72<sup>nd</sup> Governor of Virginia**  
**Democratic Candidate for Governor**

Terry McAuliffe served as Governor of Virginia from 2014-2018. To keep Virginia competitive, McAuliffe implemented major economic development initiatives designed to strengthen the Commonwealth's pro-business climate, ensure efficient investment in world-class infrastructure and develop a 21st century workforce capable of meeting the needs of emerging businesses and industries. And the results speak for themselves.

During his administration, the number of jobs in Virginia increased by more than 200,000. He closed 1,100 economic

(Terry McAuliffe Continued...)

development deals that will bring a record-breaking \$20 billion in capital investment to the Commonwealth in the coming years. That is billions more than any other governor in Virginia's history. Virginia's unemployment rate declined from 5.7% to 3.3% while he was governor.

Working across the aisle he won bipartisan support to reform transportation, revolutionize education, and protect Virginians from gun violence. As Chairman of the National Governors Association, he made cybersecurity his signature initiative and as a result has been called the Cyber Governor of the year. Governor McAuliffe was named 2016 BIO Governor of the Year by the Biotechnology Innovation Organization and was twice elected Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council. He helped make Virginia the best state in America to do business and leading 35 trade missions to more than two dozen countries. In 2017, he was named the Public Official of the Year by *GOVERNING* Magazine.

Governor McAuliffe previously served as Chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 2001 to 2005. He is the author of two *New York Times* best-selling books, *What A Party!: My Life Among Democrats: Presidents, Candidates, Donors, Activists, Alligators and Other Wild Animals* and *Beyond Charlottesville: Taking a Stand Against White Nationalism*.

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**Peter Blake**  
**Director**  
**State Council of Higher Education for Virginia**

Peter Blake has been SCHEV's director since January 2012. He served as interim director from April 2011 to January 2012. He has worked in Virginia higher education for 30 years, beginning at SCHEV as a research analyst. He subsequently became a legislative analyst for the House Appropriations Committee. Mr. Blake was the deputy secretary of education and secretary from 2002 to 2005 and secretary of education from 2005 to 2006. Before returning to SCHEV in 2011, he was the vice chancellor for workforce development services for the

Virginia Community College System.

Mr. Blake has served on several boards, including the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, the Richmond Public Library, Lead Virginia, the Virginia Commonwealth Alumni Association, Virginia Humanities and others. He holds degrees in history and mass communications from Virginia Commonwealth University. He completed The Executive Program at the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia and leadership programs through Lead Virginia and the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.

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**Dr. Dietra Trent**  
**Special Advisor to the President, George Mason University**  
**Co-Chair, Workforce & Education Executive Committee**

Dietra Y. Trent, Ph.D. is a strong advocate and true champion of public education. She has over twenty-years of experience working hard to advance equity for Virginia's most disadvantaged populations. On August 25, 2019, she joined the Mason family as Chief of Staff to Interim President Anne Holton. Previously, she served as Sr. Director for Equity Research and Training within the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University. In this capacity, she led an effort to support

state and local governments, nonprofits, and interested citizens in advancing equity and inclusion through an integrated approach including policy evaluation, targeted training, and research.

In July 2016, Governor Terry McAuliffe appointed Dr. Trent as Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Prior to her appointment, she served as Deputy Secretary of Education, a position she also held during the administration of then-Governor Tim Kaine. She joined Governor McAuliffe's administration in January 2014. As Secretary of Education, Dr. Trent's primary responsibility was to promote the Governor's agenda to eradicate the Achievement Gap, promote great teaching and learning, and strengthen educational pathways to the new Virginia

(Dr. Dietra Trent Continued...)

Economy. In this capacity, Dr. Trent provided guidance and oversight to three coordinating agencies, including the

Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia Community College System, and the State Council of Higher Education, as well as Virginia's 16 public colleges and universities, 23 community colleges, and five higher education and research centers.

Prior to joining the McAuliffe administration, Dr. Trent served as Deputy State Director for Senator Mark Warner. Having served in former Governors Tim Kaine and Mark Warner's offices, as well as the Office of Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, she has a wealth of federal, state, and higher education experience. During her time in Governor Warner's office, Dr. Trent's proudest moment was establishing and obtaining state funding for the Minority Political Leadership Institute (MPLI), housed at Virginia Commonwealth University. MPLI is a six-week intensive program designed to promote leadership for aspiring individuals interested in running for elected office or assuming leadership roles in minority communities. She currently serves on the MPLI advisory board and as Interim Director of International Education and Special Assistant to the Provost at Radford University.

Dr. Trent's career in higher education began over twenty-years ago when she served as Director of Federal Relations for Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Representing a comprehensive, urban, research university, she spent much of her time in Washington, DC, advocating on behalf of VCU's medical school and hospital. It was at VCU when she realized she would pursue a career in higher education.

Now, two decades later, Dr. Trent's philosophy about leadership is: "power does not lie in one's title or position, rather power lies in one's posture. And it is only in assuming a posture to serve others that enables us to make a positive difference in the lives of others."

A native of Halifax County, Virginia, Dr. Trent earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Criminal Justice from Hampton University and completed her master's and doctoral degrees in Public Administration and Policy from VCU.



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

On February 1, 2016, Makola M. Abdullah, Ph.D. became the 14th President of Virginia State University (VSU). In his remarks during his introduction to the Trojan family, President Abdullah outlined his four core beliefs: I believe in God. I believe in family. I believe in the transformative nature of education. I believe in Virginia State University.

President Abdullah also emphasized several focus areas to sustain VSU as an 1890 Land-Grant University. The areas of focus include providing a transformative experience for students, strategically investing in academic programs, partnering with others as a university to tell the VSU story, embracing the University's Land Grant Mission and embracing VSU's role as Virginia's Opportunity University.

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).

Dr. Abdullah is a Chicago native. He earned his undergraduate degree from Howard University in civil engineering and his doctorate and master's degrees in civil engineering from Northwestern University. He is the youngest African American to receive a Ph.D. in engineering.

Dr. Abdullah is a very active member with various organizations. In August of 2018, Dr. Abdullah was elected a member of the Board of Trustees for the Virginia Historical Society, which owns and operates the Virginia Museum of History & Culture. He also serves as a member of the executive committee for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, as a Board of Trustee member for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and the 5000 Role Models of Excellence. He is the vice chair for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic (Dr.



Makola Abdullah Continued...)

Association Board of Directors. In 2017, he was inducted into the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Alumni Hall of Fame. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

He and his wife, Ahkinyala Cobb-Abdullah, Ph.D., are the proud parents of a son, Mikaili, and a daughter, Sefiyetu, who both are graduates of HBCUs.

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**Cliff Fleet**  
**President & CEO**  
**Colonial Williamsburg Foundation**

Cliff Fleet is president and CEO of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. An executive, teacher, community volunteer, and board member, he has enjoyed a broad and deep career with leadership roles across a variety of disciplines and organizations.

In addition to his role at Colonial Williamsburg, Fleet teaches business at William & Mary, is chair of the William & Mary Foundation, and serves as a board member of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, the Virginia Business Higher Education Council, 22nd Century Group Inc. as well as private equity organizations. Previously Fleet served as President of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and as President and CEO of several companies.

A native of Charlottesville, Fleet earned four academic degrees from William & Mary, including graduate degrees in history, business administration and law.

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**Melissa Goodrich**  
**Regional Vice President, Human Resources**  
**Sentara Healthcare**

Melissa "Mel" Goodrich is the Regional Vice President of Human Resources (HR) for Sentara Healthcare. Mel joined Sentara Healthcare in 2019 and is a seasoned HR Executive with 25 years of experience working in healthcare, retail, and workforce staffing industries. Sentara Healthcare is the largest healthcare organization and third largest employer in Virginia, with more than 29,000 employees.

Mel is a strong business leader who drives accountability and results through talent, transparency, and collaboration. As the Regional HR Senior Leader, Mel is responsible for eight divisions, including Sentara Ambulatory, with all of the HR Directors in these divisions reporting to her. As a member of Sentara's Executive Leadership Team, Mel is a trusted advisor to senior leaders and aligns the HR Business Partner function to the broader HR and organizational strategic goals. Her expertise in workforce planning and organizational development was instrumental in assessing Sentara's reimagined workforce.

Prior to joining Sentara, Mel served at the North Carolina Employment Security Commission supporting displaced employees with resources for engaging in new educational opportunities and careers through the NAFTA and WIA programs. Mel has continued her passion for career development throughout her career.

Mel earned her Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science in Human Resource Management with a concentration in Organizational Effectiveness. She is also certified in Professional Human Resource (PHR) and is recognized by the Society for Human Resource Management as a certified professional (SHRM-CP). She is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management, the American Society for Healthcare Human Resources, and the Maryland Healthcare Human Resource Administration.

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**Dr. Robert Sandel**  
**President**  
**Virginia Western Community College**

In his 20 years at Virginia Western Community College, Dr. Robert H. Sandel has spearheaded unprecedented growth that has positively impacted countless students' lives and helped drive the Roanoke Region to new heights. His leadership has helped Virginia Western become a forward-thinking community college, inspiring individual, community and economic transformation. Dr. Sandel has made it a priority to provide Virginia Western students with the means for success.

In recent years, the campus has changed dramatically with the addition of the cutting-edge Fralin Center for Health Professions as well as a Student Life Center that features a wide array of student activities, a fitness center and food options. The most-recent addition to campus is the \$30-million-plus Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Building that opened to students in the Fall semester of 2019. The Al Pollard Culinary Arts Program underwent a major expansion to its facility in downtown Roanoke that doubled capacity. And finally, in collaboration with the City of Roanoke, Colonial Avenue has taken on a new look that increased student safety while creating a beautiful educational corridor.

During his tenure at the college, Dr. Sandel implemented a robust fund-raising arm to make college possible for all students regardless of financial situation. Through the Virginia Western Educational Foundation, the college established the nationally recognized Community College Access Program (CCAP), which provides up to three years of tuition to area high school graduates. Students from Botetourt County, Craig County, Franklin County, Roanoke City, Roanoke County and the City of Salem are all eligible to participate.

A native of Orangeburg, South Carolina, Dr. Sandel is a Roanoker at heart. He was named Roanoke City Citizen of the Year in 2013. He has been actively involved in the community, serving on numerous local and state boards including chair of the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce, chair of the Pre-K Committee for Smart Beginnings, board president for the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, member of the Friendship Health and Rehabilitation Center's Board of Trustees, and president of the Board of Trustees for the LewisGale Medical Center. He was named a Star Regional Honoree for exemplary service, professionalism and community leadership in the Greater Blue Ridge Region by the March of Dimes. Dr. Sandel was selected for the Ruby Award, which is given to an influential regional leader by the RoanokeBlacksburg Technology Council.

Dr. Sandel earned his bachelor's degree from The Citadel, his master's degree from South Carolina State University and his doctorate from the University of South Carolina. Prior to joining Virginia Western, he was president of Mountain Empire Community College in Big Stone Gap and he has been a community college educator for more than 30 years. Dr. Sandel's wife, Jane, is a retired educator who taught at Salem High School. They have four children and 14 grandchildren.



**Dr. Bill Hazel**  
**Senior Deputy Executive Director**  
**Claude Moore Charitable Foundation**

As the Senior Deputy Executive Director for the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, Dr. Hazel brings educational, professional and philanthropic credentials to the organization that are beyond compare. He holds an M.D. degree from Duke University School of Medicine and served his Orthopedic Surgery residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. Most recently he worked in the Office of the Provost at George Mason University.

For eight years, Dr. Hazel was the Commonwealth of Virginia's Secretary of Health and Human Resources and oversaw eleven state agencies. His past leadership roles also include service as the President of Medical Staff of INOVA Fairfax Hospital and as a past member of Inova's Board of Trustees and Trustee of the American Medical Association. He has even served as Team Physician for the Washington Redskins and DC United. Dr. Hazel's commitment to charitable works includes volunteerism near and far, from serving communities in rural Virginia to Bolivia. He is also the author of multiple professional publications. Dr. Hazel's experience in the medical field, and his lifelong commitment to public health and health education, personify the mission of the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation.



**Shawn Ryan**  
**Senior Director for Events & Marketing**  
**S&P Global**

Shawn leads global event strategy and marketing operations for S&P Global. Responsible for driving our largest marketing channel and the myriad of marketing technologies that drive our customer experience, Shawn and his team of operations and programming professionals manage the successful production of all live, virtual, and on-demand events including large-scale executive conference, professional development programs, client hospitality, product workshops, webinars, third-party engagements, and strategic roundtables.

Shawn also leads the company's Event Leadership Council, is a member of the executive marketing team, and is responsible for aligning event technology and workflow best practices across the S&P Global enterprise. Shawn arrived at S&P Global with SNL Financial, which he joined in 2009, first developing its portfolio of banking conferences and seminars and later leading its Knowledge Center business. A finance-turned general manager-turned marketing executive, Shawn spent almost 10 years at Capital One Financial, where he was the senior financial officer of the US Credit Card Risk Operations unit and also head of the Finance organization's internal training program, Finance College. He started his career in a community bank as a finance analyst and also directed finance and underwriting at a national manufactured housing lender.

Shawn is a thought leader in financial strategy and risk management along with being passionate about leadership and professional development. He holds an MBA from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a BS in Management from SUNY Geneseo. He earned his CFA charter in 2006.

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**Keith Hoelzer**  
**Head of Business Banking**  
**Atlantic Union Bank**

I am enthusiastic about banking, financial services and helping business clients grow and exceed their financial goals. I have 32 years of banking experience in the mid-Atlantic region and joined Atlantic Union Bank as the Head of Business Banking in February 2021. In my current role, I have the pleasure of developing and overseeing our Business Banking segment and strategy at Atlantic Union Bank.

Prior to joining Atlantic Union Bank, I was the Region Head of Wells Fargo's Commercial Banking segment in the Greater Washington DC region. I started my banking career at Dominion Bank and have held relationship management and regional leadership roles in Commercial, Business and Small Business Banking throughout my career.

I received my MBA degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in May 1989 and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from West Virginia University in May 1986.

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**Stephen Moret**  
**President and CEO**  
**Virginia Economic Development Partnership**

Stephen Moret is President and CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. At VEDP, he has collaborated with state, regional, and local partners to craft an ambitious vision focused on transformational goals, including accelerating employment growth; enabling every region to grow; and moving Virginia back to the top of national business climate rankings. At VEDP, he led Virginia's successful state-and-local team bid for Amazon's HQ2; designed Virginia's \$1.1-billion Tech Talent Investment Program; and has launched a world-class, custom workforce initiative,

(Stephen Moret Continued...)

the Virginia Talent Accelerator Program. Previously he served as Louisiana Secretary of Economic Development, CEO of the LSU Foundation, and as a consultant with McKinsey & Company. Moret earned an MBA from Harvard Business School as well as a doctorate in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania, where his research focused on linkages between higher education and the labor market.

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## **Dr. Donna Price-Henry** **Chancellor** **UVA-Wise**

Donna Price Henry was elected Chancellor of the University of Virginia's College at Wise by the University of Virginia Board of Visitors on December 7, 2012 and assumed office on January 18, 2013. As the College's eighth Chancellor, she is responsible for leading UVA Wise and its constituents in fulfilling its mission of student success and service to Southwest Virginia and the Commonwealth. Under Chancellor Henry's leadership, UVA Wise is realizing its vision for the future through the Honor the Future Campaign and The 2030 Plan for UVA Wise.

Accomplishments include recruiting and retaining faculty through more competitive salaries; securing and filling endowed professorships; establishing a new student advising corps to improve first year retention; and partnering with UVA on a joint admissions program for wait-listed students. She has supported efforts including targeting financial aid to attract talented students with diverse interests and expanding students' experiential learning opportunities such as paid internships, research fellowships and study abroad. Additionally, Chancellor Henry has led the way in enhancing STEM-H opportunities, increasing resources, and summer enrichment programming; fundraising to support numerous college initiatives including NCAA Division II athletics and securing multi-million dollar grants to support economic development in the region. She initiated plans for the first online and graduate degree programs at the College in nursing and teaching, respectively as well as expanded access for students throughout the Appalachian Region by offering reduced tuition at near-in-state rates. In fall 2019, Chancellor Henry promoted the launching of the innovate2eleVAte program that provides iPads to the campus community. This initiative was timely and allowed a seamless transition to online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, innovate2eleVAte has advanced student academic success, leveled the playing field for student access to technology and improved digital literacy after college. Chancellor Henry is active in the community and Commonwealth.

She serves on a number of boards including the Wise County Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Virginia Public Education Consortium, Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, American Council on Education (ACE), GO Virginia Region 1 Council and Executive Committee, NCAA Division II Presidents Council and the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics (CWA). She is a member of the Wise and Norton Kiwanis and provides leadership to the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges and the Southwest Virginia Health Authority Executive Committee.

Chancellor Henry is a board member of the Virginia Business Higher Education Council and former Chair for the Council of Presidents who serve Virginia public colleges and universities. She is the recipient of the Virginia Network of Women in Higher Education's 2020 Outstanding Woman Leader award. A biologist with extensive experience in higher education, Chancellor Henry spent 16 years in a variety of positions at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). She was a founding faculty member at FGCU, was faculty senate president, and served as a member of the University Board of Trustees. Ms. Henry served as dean of the FGCU College of Arts and Sciences, an assignment that demanded meticulous strategic planning and leadership that allowed the College to grow rapidly while continuing to improve academic quality.

Chancellor Henry earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biological Basis of Behavior from the University of Pennsylvania, where she also minored in Spanish. She earned a Doctorate in Physiology from Thomas Jefferson University. Chancellor Henry is a professor of biology on the UVA Wise faculty. Ms. Henry is married to Mr. Allen Henry, a pilot for Federal Express. The Henrys have twin daughters, Jessie and Margaret, graduates of Central High School in Wise, VA. Margaret is pursuing a bachelor degree in the Classics and will study at John Cabot University in Rome, Italy in fall 2021. Jessie is a recent graduate of the College of William & Mary and will attend Harvard University to pursue a master's in education policy in fall 2021.

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## **Brenda Woodcock**

### **Richmond Market Chief Nursing Officer**

### **Bon Secours**

Brenda Woodcock, MSN, RN, WHNP, NEA-BC, is the chief nursing officer for Bon Secour Richmond. Promoted into this role in December 2020, Brenda previously was the chief nursing officer at Bon Secours Southside Medical Center, a 300-licensed bed, level III trauma center in Petersburg, Virginia, which was acquired by the Bon Secours Mercy Health

in January 2020.

Prior to joining the Bon Secours in 2020, Brenda was a CNO for Community Health Systems (former parent company) for Southside Medical Center) since 2016. Brenda formerly worked for HCA Hospitals in Richmond, Virginia, for over 20 years, where she held many nursing and nursing leadership positions, including CNO, ACNO and oncology service line positions.

Specializing in women's health and oncology, Brenda has been afforded many opportunities over the years, most noteworthy was her role as one of the first oncology nurse navigators in the Richmond, Virginia area, working with breast cancer patients throughout their treatment journey, including research and genetic counseling. Brenda received her undergraduate and graduate nursing degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. She has completed her coursework for her DNP with Liberty University and is anticipating graduation in December 2021. Her research is centered around fall prevention and incorporates an interdisciplinary team approach to purposeful hourly rounding to prevent falls and improve patient satisfaction. She is licensed as a women's health nurse practitioner and practiced in a solo ob/gyn office right out of school but soon realized that her love and passion were tied to leadership in a hospital setting.

Brenda is married, the mother of two girls, one of whom is pursuing her registered nursing degree and the other is an elementary school teacher in Virginia. Brenda has held many roles in her community and church, as well as speaking engagements and participating in committee memberships in local nursing programs.



## **Glenn Youngkin**

### **Republican Candidate for Governor**

Glenn Youngkin is a homegrown Virginian who grew up in Richmond and Virginia Beach. As his father changed jobs, Glenn learned that moving around didn't equal moving up – nothing was handed to him. From his first job washing dishes and frying eggs at a diner in Virginia Beach, Glenn embraced hard work and responsibility to help his family when his father lost his job. His determination to succeed earned him multiple high school basketball

honors in Virginia and an athletic scholarship to college.

After earning an engineering degree at Rice University, and his MBA at Harvard Business School, Glenn and his wife Suzanne moved to Northern Virginia. Glenn landed a job at The Carlyle Group, where he spent the next 25 years. Working his way to the top of the company, Glenn played a key role in building Carlyle into one of the leading investment firms in the world. His efforts have helped fund the retirements of teachers, police officers, firefighters and other frontline public servants and supported hundreds of thousands of American jobs.

Married for 26 years to his amazing wife Suzanne, Glenn is a dedicated father of four wonderful children. Their family journey has been and continues to be guided by their faith.

From his life experiences, Glenn has developed the skills and character to lead Virginia with humility and courage. He has the know-how to get Virginia moving again and rebuild it into the best place to live, work and raise a family in America.



**Bridget Brown**  
**Director, Workforce Innovations**  
**ICF**

Bridget Brown serves as ICF's Director of Workforce Innovations and has over 28 years of experience in workforce development, work-based learning, program improvement, and capacity building at the local, state, and national levels. Over the course of her career, she has focused her efforts on improving employment outcomes for job seekers, supporting the economic competitiveness of American businesses, and creating the next generation of leaders in workforce development.

Prior to ICF, Bridget was the Executive Director of the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals. She had the privilege of serving two presidents in her role as National Skill Standards Board's Director of Program Development at the U.S. Department of Labor and was the co-director of the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council. Bridget has served on several advisory boards related to improving employment outcomes and ensuring equity for individuals in non-traditional occupations.

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**Victoria Harker**  
**Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer**  
**TEGNA Inc.**

Victoria Harker is Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of TEGNA Inc. (NYSE: TGNA), formerly Gannett Co. Inc. (NYSE: GCI), a global \$8 billion media and digital communications company. Before joining Gannett, Ms. Harker served as CFO and President of Global Business Services of the AES Corp. (NYSE: AES), a multinational power company. Prior to joining AES, Ms. Harker was CFO and Treasurer of MCI from 2002 to 2006 and served as CFO of the MCI Group from 1998 to 2002. Victoria also held several positions at MCI within the consumer and small business divisions in finance, information technology, and operations between 1990 and 1998.

Beyond her management experience, Ms. Harker holds leadership roles on several public company boards, including Huntington Ingalls (NYSE: HII), Xylem Inc. (NYSE: XYL) and STRIDE (formally K12) (NYSE: LRN). At HII, the \$10 billion builder of ships and submarines for the U.S. government, she serves as Chair of the Compensation Committee and on the Finance Committee. At Xylem, the \$8 billion global water infrastructure company, Victoria has been Audit Committee Chair since the company's 2012 inception and a member of the Nominating and Governance Committee. At STRIDE, the \$2 billion global distance learning company and leading provider of academic and career-readiness platforms, she serves on the Audit Committee. She also previously served on the Board of Directors of Darden Restaurants (NYSE: DRI) from 2007-2014.

In the not-for-profit space, Ms. Harker also serves on several boards, primarily focused on education, access and diversity. She was appointed to the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia by Governor Robert McDonnell in 2012, where she chaired the Finance Committee and was a member of the Executive Committee, the Academic Affairs Committee, the Health System Board and the presidential search committee (which named James E. Ryan in 2018). She remains a public member of the Health System Board, Chair of the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy Board, and the Rare Book School Board. She is emeritus to the UVA Jefferson Trust, the UVA College of Arts & Sciences and the UVA Board of Managers, which she chaired from 2010-2012.

In 2019, Ms. Harker was appointed by Governor Ralph Northam to the Board of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), responsible for the accreditation and financial oversight for Virginia's public school systems. She was re-appointed in July 2021. Victoria chairs the SCHEV Board's Resources and Planning Committee. She is actively engaged on the Board of the Virginia Business Higher Education Council, chartered to develop public/private partnerships which support and advance higher education in the state of Virginia.

Ms. Harker received her bachelor's degree in English, with a concentration in economics, from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in business administration, with a concentration in finance, from American University. A two-time ironman triathlete, marathon runner, long-distance swimmer and golfer, she lives in McLean, Virginia, with her husband and three sons.

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**Mark Dreyfus**  
**President**  
**ECPI University**

Mark is President of ECPI University, founded in 1966, currently consisting of eighteen campuses in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Texas and Online. Mark has worked in various executive positions at East Coast Polytechnic Institute since 1982. ECPI University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate, baccalaureate, and master's degrees.

Mark is a Board Member of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce; Treasurer and Trustee of the Eastern Virginia Medical School Foundation, Board Member of the Virginia Aquarium, Board Member of the Chrysler Museum, Board Member of the Hampton Roads Alliance, member of the Hampton Roads Business Roundtable, Board Member and former Chair of the Career Education Colleges and Universities; and Member of the Virginia Board of Workforce Development.

Mark holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

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**Susan Jacobs**  
**Vice-President of Human Resources**  
**Newport News Shipbuilding**

Susan Jacobs is vice president of human resources and administration for Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries, located in Newport News, Va. She was appointed to this position in 2016 and is responsible for human resources administration, employment, labor relations and recruitment. Jacobs has worked in the human resources industry since 1986 in various positions of increasing responsibility including senior director of human resources at L-3 Vertex Aerospace LLC. Prior to her current position and since 2007, she served as director of human resources and administration for Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, MS. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science in 1984 and an MBA in marketing emphasis from the University of Southern Mississippi. Jacobs is also a graduate of Leadership Mississippi and the Gulf Coast Business Council Master's Program. She currently holds the Senior Professional in Human Resources and Senior Certified Professional certifications from the Society for Human Resource Management. In the community, Jacobs serves on the board of directors for Riverside Lifelong Health, LEAD Virginia, Hampton Roads Chamber, and the Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance.

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**Delbert Parks**  
**Vice President and Site Executive**  
**Micron Technology Virginia**

Delbert Parks is the vice president and site executive of Micron Technology Virginia, Micron's premier 300mm high-tech manufacturing facility for leading DRAM, NAND and NOR memory products. The Manassas site employs more than 1,600 team members and is one of the largest exporters in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Delbert's career started off at Philips Electronics, where he managed both engineering and manufacturing teams. In 2004, he moved to Texas Instruments, where he started the new 200mm/300mm bump facility and later took on increasing leadership

(Delbert Parks Continued...)

responsibilities including site manager over multiple factories. Delbert holds a master's degree and a bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics from Stephen F. Austin State University. Delbert serves on several boards in the community including; the board of visitors for Norfolk State University, the Boys and Girls Club, George Mason University Foundation, Northern Virginia Technology Council, Virginia Microelectronics Consortium, Virginia Business Higher Education Council, and the COVID-19 Strategic Renewal Task Force of the Greater Washington Board of Trade. Outside of work, Delbert is passionate about volunteering and youth work. He is a board member of the North Dallas Adventist Academy. He also volunteers in various other boards and associations such as the Masters Leadership Program for greater San Antonio, Texas, Association of Sports Officials, and the Trinity River Mission to support tutoring and mentoring of elementary students as part of an afterschool program. Delbert has a high school senior and college freshman with his wife, Lerlynn. He recently relocated from Texas to Virginia and has been enjoying getting involved in his new community.

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## **Dr. Tim Sands President Virginia Tech**

Timothy D. Sands is the 16th president of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and a professor in the College of Engineering. Since joining Virginia Tech in 2014, he has worked collaboratively with the provost and university leadership to set the university on track to become a leading modern, global, land-grant institution. Virginia Tech's strategic plan and

vision, *The Virginia Tech Difference: Advancing Beyond Boundaries*, aligns the university with the emerging needs and opportunities of a rapidly changing world in the context of the evolving higher education landscape. President Sands initiated InclusiveVT in 2015, leading an effort that has increased the enrollment of underrepresented minority (URM) students by 88% while closing the 4-year graduation rate gap from 10 percentage points to 1 percentage point. URM and underserved students (Pell-eligible, first-generation and veterans) now make up nearly 40% of the entering class, including transfers. Virginia Tech remains a leader in research and innovation with over \$500M in annual expenditures.

The university's residential campus in Blacksburg is being transformed with an emphasis on living-learning experiences, transdisciplinary collaboration, and sustainability. Recent developments include a Creativity and Innovation District, the launch of a Global Business and Analytics Complex, and expanded facilities for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. Expansion of the health sciences in the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at the Virginia Tech Carilion Health Sciences and Technology campus in Roanoke, the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, and a partnership with Children's National Hospital's Research and Innovation Campus in Washington D.C. are central to enhancing Virginia Tech's research and innovation profile, and the impact on the communities the university serves.

Virginia Tech's 1-million-square-foot Innovation Campus in the greater Washington D.C. area is the centerpiece of a technology education strategy that is developing a new and diverse generation of technology talent and supporting the commonwealth's economic vitality with groundbreaking programs in computer science, software engineering, machine learning and artificial intelligence. President Sands earned a bachelor's degree with highest honors in engineering physics and a master's degree and doctorate in materials science from the University of California, Berkeley. He has published more than 250 refereed papers and conference proceedings and has been granted 21 patents in electronic and optoelectronic materials and devices. He is a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the Materials Research Society, and the National Academy of Inventors.

Before coming to Virginia Tech, he was executive vice president for academic affairs and provost of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, serving as acting president in 2012. President Sands is joined at Virginia Tech by his wife, Dr. Laura Sands, a professor of gerontology in the Department of Human Development at Virginia Tech. All four of their children are proud members of the Virginia Tech community. Follow President Sands on Twitter and Instagram at @VTSandsman.



# BLUEPRINT VIRGINIA 2025

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