



# 13<sup>TH</sup> VIRGINIA ECONOMIC SUMMIT & FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

*Ensuring Virginia Competes to Win in the National & Global Economy*

**BLUEPRINT VIRGINIA 2030**

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**Stephanie Agee**, Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP)

**John Sugden**, Walgreen Co.

# 2022 VIRGINIA ECONOMIC SUMMIT & FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

## *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.

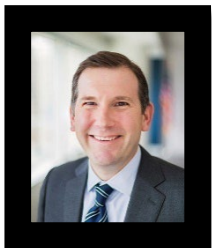
Under his leadership, the Chamber has become Virginia's largest business advocacy group, growing from 847 members in 2010 to more than 26,000 members today. In 2013, the Chamber produced Blueprint Virginia – the Commonwealth's first comprehensive business-led initiative to provide direction and long-term 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.



### **Jason El Koubi** **President & CEO, Virginia Economic Development Partnership**

Before joining VEDP in July 2017 as Executive Vice President, El Koubi was previously President and CEO of One Acadiana, a regional economic development organization based in Lafayette, Louisiana. Under his leadership, the organization developed and successfully launched one of the most successful capital campaigns of its kind in the nation to deliver a new economic development program for the nine-parish region. Previously, El Koubi served as Assistant Secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, where he led initiatives that helped secure projects creating more than 63,000 new jobs along with more than \$28 billion in new capital investment, while dramatically improving Louisiana's position in virtually every state business climate ranking.



## **Fred Thompson**

### **Chief Administrative Officer, Thompson Hospitality and Chair, Virginia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors**

Fred Thompson is a business partner and Chief Administrative Officer at Thompson Hospitality. Fred received a B.A. degree in Classical Studies from Hampden Sydney College and a M.A. degree in Public Administration from University of Virginia.

In addition to his work at Thompson Hospitality, Fred is a member of the Global Good Fund Foundation, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Virginia Council on Economic Education and serves as a Deacon at First Baptist Church, Vienna, VA.

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## **Tom Barkin**

### **President & CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond**

Tom Barkin is the president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. He has held this position since 2018.

Tom serves on the Fed's chief monetary policy body, the Federal Open Market Committee, and is also responsible for bank supervision and the Federal Reserve's technology organization. He is "on the ground" continually in the Fed's Fifth District, which covers South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, D.C., West Virginia and Maryland. His engagement in the region has brought real attention to areas facing economic challenges.

Prior to joining the Richmond Fed, Tom was a senior partner and CFO at McKinsey & Company, a worldwide management consulting firm, where he also oversaw McKinsey's offices in the southern United States.

Tom earned his bachelor's, MBA and law degrees from Harvard University.

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## **Woody Fowler**

### **President & CEO, Williams Mullen**

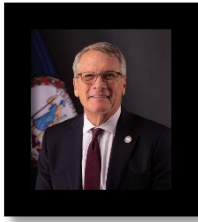
Woody Fowler serves as chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer of Williams Mullen, in addition to being a respected litigator. For businesses involved in legal disputes, Woody assists with complex commercial litigation, banking and financial services litigation, education litigation, consumer class actions, health care litigation, business torts, products liability and insurance coverage disputes. For clients looking for alternatives to the courtroom, he is also experienced in alternative dispute resolution and serves as an arbitrator and mediator.

Admitted to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia since 1987, Woody has diverse and extensive litigation experience. He has helped companies in several industries with litigation, including colleges and universities, health care systems, insurance companies, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and more. While Woody is focused on helping his clients work toward their goals, he recognizes that just because you can do something does not mean you should. He works to gain a fuller understanding of what the client's goals and objectives are and then takes those actions that will assist in reaching those goals and objectives. Sometimes the solution lies where you least expect it.

Legal project management principles are a great tool in increasing the efficiency of case management and maximizing the predictability of litigation expenses. Woody applies these principles to case analysis and strategy, staffing, information management and budgeting.

Woody serves on the board of directors of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges and the American Heart Association's Greater Richmond Chapter. He is a member of the advisory board to the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation. Woody is also a Richmond regional trustee board member for the University of Virginia College of Arts & Sciences, a member of the Richmond Management Roundtable and a member of the board of RVA757 Connects.

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## **The Honorable Stephen Cummings**

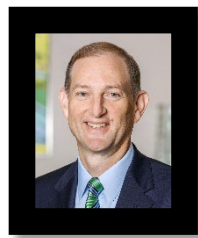
### **Virginia Secretary of Finance**

Stephen Emery Cummings took the oath of office to serve as Secretary of Finance on January 15, 2022. He oversees the four main Finance agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia: Department of Accounts, Department of Planning and Budget, Department of Taxation; and Department of the Treasury – along with the Virginia Resources Authority and Virginia Board of Accountancy.

Mr. Cummings is a leader in the domestic and international financial services industry – most recently serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) in the Americas, one of the five largest banks in the world and the largest foreign bank operating in the United States. Prior to his role at MUFG, he served as Chairman of UBS's Investment Banking division in the Americas; Global Head of Corporate and Investment Banking at Wachovia Bank; and as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer at Bowles Hollowell Conner & Co.

Mr. Cummings has an MBA from Columbia University Graduate School of Business and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Colby College. He and his wife, Karen, have six children and nine grandchildren.

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## **Bob Blue**

### **President & CEO, Chair, Dominion Energy**

Robert M. Blue is chair, president, and chief executive officer of Dominion Energy.

Blue became chair of the Dominion Energy board of directors in April 2021. Before becoming CEO and president in October 2020, Blue was Dominion Energy's executive vice president and co-chief operating officer, and president-Dominion Energy Virginia, the company's vertically integrated electric utility in Virginia and North Carolina.

Blue joined Dominion Energy in 2005 and has held a succession of services and operational executive roles since his promotion to officer in 2007, including vice president-State and Federal Affairs; senior vice

president-Public Policy and Corporate Communications; senior vice president-Regulation, Law, Energy Solutions, & Policy; and president-Dominion Virginia Power.

Prior to joining Dominion Energy, Blue served as counselor to the Governor and director of policy for Virginia Governor Mark Warner and as an attorney at Hogan & Hartson.

Blue has been a board member of a wide range of community and industry organizations, including the Nuclear Energy Institute. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Edison Electric Institute and the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations. He is a member of the boards of the AEGIS Insurance Services, Inc., the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, the Greater Washington Partnership, Sports Backers, and Communities in Schools of Virginia, as well as the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors.

Blue is a graduate of the University of Virginia and Yale Law School. He also earned his master's degree in business administration from the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business. r. Sharon Morrissey was appointed as Interim Chancellor for the Virginia Community College System on July 1, 2022. As the chief executive officer of the System, she reports to a fifteen-member Board and provides leadership for Virginia's twenty-three community colleges in meeting the System's mission of providing all Virginians with the opportunity to learn and develop the right skills so that lives and communities are strengthened.

Dr. Morrissey came to the Virginia Community College System in 2014. For the past several years, she served as Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Workforce Programs, where she was responsible for state-level coordination of workforce education and college transfer programs, instructional and student support services, research and reporting, federal program administration, and related policy development for Virginia's 23 community colleges. Dr. Morrissey led initiatives to increase student success outcomes across the VCCS, including transfer program realignment to support mapped pathways; direct enrollment with co-requisite learning supports; stackable workforce credentials; credit for prior learning; dual enrollment redesign; and systemwide enterprise technology solutions to support student success. Dr. Morrissey co-chaired the VCCS strategic planning task force, which developed Opportunity 2027, a six-year plan to achieve equity in access, learning, and success for students from every race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic group.

Prior to joining the VCCS, Dr. Morrissey had a 26-year higher education career in North Carolina, where she served as the Executive Vice President for Programs and Chief Academic Officer for the North Carolina Community College System. Dr. Morrissey also served as President of Richmond Community College, Vice President for Instruction at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, and Vice President for Academic and Student Services at Fayetteville Technical Community College. She began her community college career as an English instructor at Central Carolina Community College.

Dr. Morrissey serves on the boards of the Community College Research Center, the National Student Clearinghouse, and the Online Virginia Network. She is an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Education Leadership, Policy & Human Development at North Carolina State University.



## **Andy Green**

### **Executive Vice President, and President, Mission Technologies, Huntington Ingalls Industries**

Andy Green is executive vice president of HII and president of HII's Mission Technologies division. Named to this position in 2016, he is responsible for HII's national security solutions in the areas of C5ISR, big data, unmanned systems, electronic warfare, space, advanced modeling and simulation, fleet sustainment and nuclear services.

Green previously served as corporate vice president of strategy and corporate development and as vice president, component manufacturing, where he directed the manufacture of major components used in the construction of aircraft carriers and submarines. He joined HII in 2011 as corporate vice president of investor relations, where he was responsible for the company's relationships with Wall Street analysts and shareholders.

Before joining HII, Green served as vice president of investor relations at Celanese Corp. and was a managing director of High Yield capital markets at Wells Fargo, where he covered the defense and aerospace industry.

Prior to attending graduate school, Green was a manufacturing plant engineer at Eaton Corp. He also qualified as a nuclear engineer and strategic weapons system officer in the U.S. Navy, having served aboard the ballistic missile submarine USS Tecumseh (SSBN 628) and as an instructor for junior officers.

He holds a bachelor's degree in systems engineering from the United States Naval Academy and an MBA from Duke University.

Green serves on the board of directors of Titan Acquisition Holdings, The Entwistle Co. and the Professional Services Council. He is a four-time recipient of the Washington 100 Award and was named as one of WashingtonExec's Top 35 Executives to Watch in 2022.

HII is an all-domain defense and technologies partner, recognized worldwide as America's largest shipbuilder. With a 135-year history of trusted partnerships in advancing U.S. national security, HII delivers critical capabilities ranging from the most powerful and survivable naval ships ever built, to unmanned systems, ISR and AI/ML analytics. HII leads the industry in mission-driven solutions that support and enable an all-domain force. Headquartered in Virginia, HII's skilled workforce is 44,000 strong.

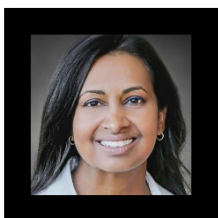


## **Holly Sullivan**

### **Vice President of World Wide Economic Development, Amazon**

Holly Sullivan is the Vice President of World Wide Economic Development at Amazon. In addition to spearheading the search for Amazon's second headquarters in Arlington, VA and bringing 25,000 jobs to the region, Holly led the development of the new 5,000 employee Amazon Nashville location and the expansion of Amazon's 18 North American Tech Hubs creating more than 50,000 corporate and tech roles. Holly has also worked with local leaders to foster the growth of the company's operations and logistics footprint and job creation efforts around the world.

She has more than 20 years of experience in economic development, most recently as President and CEO of the Montgomery Business Development Corporation in Maryland. She also formerly led economic development organizations in the Nashville region. Holly received a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Science in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Tennessee. She was recently named one of Washington DC's Most Powerful Real Estate Players in 2020 by the Commercial Observer. She serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry, is a member of the Middle Tennessee Community Foundation and an Advisory Board member for the University of Tennessee Haslam School of Business.



## **Lakshmi Williams**

### **General Counsel, North America, Transurban**

Transurban Role

As General Counsel, North America, Lakshmi has responsibility for managing all legal work related to Transurban's operating assets, development efforts and Mergers & Acquisitions. In addition, she oversees the governance, risk and compliance functions for the North American business and has responsibility for all litigation.

Lakshmi plays a key role in structuring, negotiating and financing new projects from project inception, proposal development and financing through delivery, launch and operations. She supervises all aspects of IP portfolio and strategy as well as streamlining U.S. and Canadian corporate legal entities to optimize tax outcomes and support future development efforts. She has managerial and Board responsibilities for Transurban's North American assets.

Lakshmi has served in a number of advisory positions including her role on various Boards of Directors, including representing Transurban's interests in Bluedot - a technology company enabling geofencing for the GoToll mobile tolling app. She also serves as First Chair on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. She was awarded "Top Corporate Counsel, Washington, DC" and named a "Leader Among Us" by the Asian Pacific Bar association. She has been a guest lecturer at a variety of law schools and the Virginia Bar Association and is a frequent presenter at industry forums.

Lakshmi brings extensive experience to the role gained in a legal career that spans over 25 years. Prior to joining Transurban in 2012, she worked as Deputy General Counsel at GridPoint, an energy tech company, as well as Deputy Counsel at MicroStrategy, a public software company. Prior to going in-house, Lakshmi practiced as a corporate and securities associate at a few large Washington, D.C. law firms, including Hogan Lovells (formerly Hogan & Hartson).

Lakshmi received a Juris Doctorate from the University of Chicago Law School and a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Economics and English Literature from Rice University. She also received a Certificate in Executive Management and Leadership from the MIT Sloan School of Management. She is admitted to the D.C. and Texas bar and admitted as corporate counsel in Virginia.

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## **Jake Colvin**

### **President, National Foreign Trade Council**



Jake Colvin is President of the National Foreign Trade Council, the leading business association dedicated solely to advancing the interests of U.S. companies in international commerce. As President, he leads efforts to advance global commerce through the promotion of international trade and tax policies that contribute to economic growth and job creation. He oversees NFTC's work to strengthen the rules, norms and institutions that enable access to the global economy and emphasizes the role of trade in solving complex global problems.

Prior to being named president, Jake served as NFTC's Vice President for Global Trade and Innovation. He led efforts to promote an open global digital economy and elevate the role of trade policy in solving global climate and health challenges as well as the Council's engagement with multilateral institutions including the World Trade Organization and APEC. From 2005 until 2008, Jake directed NFTC's USA\*Engage coalition to emphasize the benefits of U.S. economic, diplomatic and citizen engagement in the global economy.

He is a Co-Founder of the Global Innovation Forum (GIF), which engages a global network of small business, nonprofit leaders and government officials to explore the role of technology and trade policies and programs in fostering resilience and inclusive growth. From 2014 until 2021, he served as GIF's Executive Director.

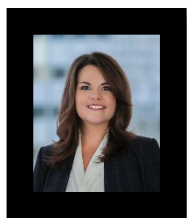
Jake is a cleared advisor to the U.S. Government as a member of the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee and has testified before Congress. He has written about trade and foreign policy for media including Business Week, Forbes, Inc. and Politico and has provided analysis for outlets including CNBC, CNN, NBC News and NPR.

He is a graduate of the University of Richmond and the Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies. He lives in Washington, DC.

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## **Stephanie Agee**

### **Senior Vice President, International Trade & Chief Administrative Officer, Virginia Economic Development Partnership**



Stephanie Agee serves as Senior Vice President for International Trade and Chief Administrative Officer for the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. Before joining VEDP in January 2020, Stephanie led marketing and economic development activities at the Virginia Department of Agriculture, where she helped Virginia agribusinesses reach customers domestically and internationally and implemented economic development strategies to expand

Virginia's agriculture and forestry industries. Earlier in her career, Stephanie served in multiple positions in VEDP's International Trade Division, including manager of the Virginia Leaders in Export Trade (VALET) Program, and as a policy analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Stephanie has a Bachelor's in International Studies from Virginia Tech and a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Maryland.

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## **The Honorable Matthew Lohr**

### **Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry**

Matt Lohr was raised on a Virginia century family farm in the Shenandoah Valley. As a fifth-generation farmer, he has spent his entire life working for the betterment of agriculture. Matt developed his passion for public service while serving as both a state and national FFA officer before graduating from Virginia Tech in 1995. He has more than 30 years of experience as a professional leader and communicator.

Matt served as Chief of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, an agency with more than 10,000 employees across 3,000 offices. He also previously served in the Virginia House of Delegates, as Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and as Director of the Farm Credit Knowledge Center.

In addition to serving as Secretary, Matt along with his two children own and operate Valley Pike Farm, Inc., his family's farming operation.

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## **Stephen Edwards**

### **CEO and Executive Director, Virginia Port Authority**

Stephen A. Edwards is the CEO and Executive Director of the Virginia Port Authority (VPA). He is responsible for the broad programmatic areas of business and relationship development, infrastructure development, strategic marketing, economic development, finance, security and safety. He directs and manages the operations of Virginia's marine and inland terminal facilities through Virginia International Terminals, LLC, the port's private terminal operating company, including Virginia International Gateway, Newport News Marine Terminal, Norfolk International Terminals, Portsmouth Marine Terminal, Richmond Marine Terminal and the Virginia Inland Port.

He is a globally experienced leader in the maritime industry with extensive operational experience and a proven track record of growing businesses and creating long-term value for customers and stakeholders.

Before joining the VPA in January 2021, Stephen served as President and Chief Executive Officer for TraPac, LLC and was responsible for the overall performance of the company with focus on safety, service and sustainability. Prior to that, he was the CEO of Global Container Terminals. Previous industry experience includes president and CEO of Port America Group and president and CEO of P&O Ports North America.

In his capacity as CEO and Executive Director of the VPA, Stephen will serve as an ex-officio member of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) board of directors.

Stephen holds a BS degree in Transport Management from Aston University in England.

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## **Scott Hamberger**

### **President & CEO, Fortessa Tableware Solutions**

Scott M. Hamberger is President and CEO of Integrus Holdings, Inc. As a co-founder, Scott has overseen the growth of this enterprise and its expansion to several business units, all of which operate under the Integrus company core values: Loyalty, Integrity, Leadership and Innovation. He is a skilled strategic thinker with a particular talent for analysis, and marketing innovation. Scott demonstrates excellent communication skills and is an accomplished public speaker and writer. These talents give him an ability to identify, articulate, and lead the implementation of the Company's strategic plans. He focuses his efforts on ensuring that the Company has the key elements necessary for growth: governance, business development strategy, business processes, infrastructure, and capital. Integrus' flagship business, Fortessa Tableware Solutions (FTS) is a recognized global leader in commercial foodservice and upscale consumer tableware, FTS is a highly regarded innovator in the design, manufacture and distribution of the finest quality tableware worldwide.

Sterling Restaurant Supply (SRS) is an innovative distributor of products, including those of FTS as well as third party brands, to foodservice and catering operators. SRS products cover a full spectrum from hospitality supplies to tableware.

Scott currently serves on the Boards of Directors of Eagle Financial Services, Inc., the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce. Scott serves on the Advisory Board for the Bolte School of Business at Mount St. Mary's University. Scott is past Chairman of the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce, Inova Loudoun Hospital, and the Loudoun County CEO Cabinet. He has served as a Trustee of Marymount University and on advisory boards for the George Washington University Virginia Science and Technology Campus and St. Veronica Catholic Church. Scott was recognized by the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce as the Executive Community Leader of the year in 2018 and by the Goose Creek District of the National Capital Area Council of the BSA as the Good Scout of the year in 2012. He and his wife reside in Purcellville, Virginia.

Scott is a graduate of Georgetown University and holds an MBA from the Gary Tharaldson School of Business at the University of Mary.

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## **Kyle Strang**

### **Logistics Manager, Somic America Incorporated**

Kyle is a 2020 alumni of Maine Maritime Academy where he received a bachelors degree of science in international business and logistics. He is currently employed at Somic America, INC. where he specializes in global logistics, project management, and production control.

Previously he worked as an intern with General Dynamics NASSCO in Ship's Management where he managed production and pier crane operations for the USNS Miguel Keith ESB 5.

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## **Keller Watts**

### **Executive Vice President, Business Management & Supply Planning, Smithfield Foods, Inc.**

Keller Watts is an Executive Vice President of Smithfield Foods overseeing their Business Development and Supply Planning Divisions. Smithfield Foods employees over 42,000 people in the United States with over \$19B in annual revenue. It is a vertically integrated protein company specializing in protein with strong domestic and international sales.

As a seasoned professional with almost 30 years experiences in the Consumer Packaged Goods space, Keller is responsible for managing the financial health of Smithfield's \$9B packaged portfolio with brands such as Smithfield, Gwaltney, Eckrich, and Nathan's Hotdogs. Over his career he has held roles in Supply Planning, Strategic Sourcing, Marketing, Sales, and R&D. He is known for maximizing operational excellence, consistently delivering financial performance, and building strong teams. Keller has strong ties to the Commonwealth, growing up in the Tidewater area of Virginia, receiving his BS in Marketing and Management from Virginia Tech and holding an MBA from Western Governor's University. He is based at the company's headquarters in Smithfield, VA.

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## **Mike Petters**

### **Executive Chairman of the Board, Huntington Ingalls Industries**

Mike Petters is executive vice chairman of the board of directors at HII, a global engineering and defense technologies provider. Petters previously served as HII's president and CEO until March 1, 2022

As executive vice chairman, Petters supports the leadership transition, consistent with the company's succession plan, and will remain an HII employee through 2022.

Previously, Petters served as president of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding and as president of Northrop Grumman's Newport News sector. He joined Newport News Shipbuilding in 1987 in the Los Angeles-class submarine construction division. He held a number of increasingly responsible positions throughout the organization, including production supervisor for submarines, marketing manager for submarines and carriers, vice president of aircraft carrier programs, vice president of contracts and pricing, and vice president of human resources.

Petters is chairman of the Aerospace Industries Association's executive committee and as a trustee of the Committee for Economic Development. He serves on the board of directors for the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation.

He also serves on the College of William and Mary Board of Visitors as well as the board of advisors for the Center for a New American Security.

A native of Florida, Petters earned a bachelor's degree in physics from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1982, served aboard the nuclear-powered submarine USS George Bancroft (SSBN 643) and spent five years in the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 1993, he earned an MBA from the College of William and Mary.

In 2017, Petters received the Committee for Economic Development's Owen B. Butler Education Excellence Award, which recognizes an individual's exceptional commitment to quality education, skills development and workforce development programs.



## **Eric Moeller**

### **Chief Transformation Officer, Office of Governor Glenn Youngkin**

Eric Moeller has been a senior operating executive with over 30 years of experience shaping and leading transformational change in companies across the United States. He has previously served as a Partner at McKinsey & Company, CEO of a food manufacturer, Trustee of AGE Refining, Vice President of Valero Energy Corporation, and a Partner at the Boston Consulting

Group.

At McKinsey, he was a leader in the RTS unit where he helped companies make dramatic and sustainable improvements in performance and organizational health. Eric worked with teams in these businesses ranging in size from \$1 to \$70B and has helped them deliver financial impacts ranging from \$100M to \$1.5B+ per year. He has completed successful transformations in diverse industries such as manufacturing, energy, mining, transportation, logistics, financial services, insurance, real estate, data management and healthcare.

Eric holds an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin where he was a member of the national championship rowing team.

Eric, his wife Leslie, and daughter live on a farm in Louisa County and reside during the week in Richmond's Jackson Ward. They have two sons who are fourth generation graduates of the University of Virginia.



## **The Honorable Jillian Balow**

### **Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction**

Jillian Balow was a classroom teacher for 10 years. She served in the Wyoming Department of Family Services, and as a policy advisor to Wyoming Governor Matt Mead before being elected as Wyoming's state superintendent in 2014.

In Wyoming, Balow worked with tribal partners to create the "Indian Education for All" curriculum so that all Wyoming students would learn about the history and contributions of the state's Northern Arapaho and Eastern

Shoshone Tribes.

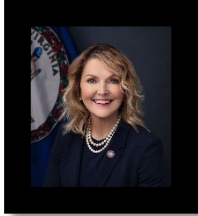
She developed a support system for Wyoming's lowest-performing schools and reduced the number of schools needing state assistance by 5%. Balow also incorporated career and military readiness into Wyoming's accountability system and worked with business, industry, policymakers, and educators to include computer science education in every K-12 classroom.

Since becoming Virginia's state superintendent, Balow has advocated for the Virginia Literacy Act and provided Governor Youngkin with a report on policy steps necessary to restore high expectations and excellence as objectives for all of the commonwealth's students. Nationally, Balow served as president of the Board of Directors of the Council of Chief State School Officers from 2019-2020. She is a

member of the Hunt Institute's 2020 Cohort 6 Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows. She also served as the Treasurer of the Education Commission of the States, the highest-ranking position a state superintendent can have in that organization.

Balow was recognized as the 2017 State Policymaker of the Year by the State Education Technology Directors Association and the 2016 Influencer of the Year by the Mott Foundation. In 2017, she received the Patrick Henry Award for distinguished partnership with the armed forces. In 2021, Balow was recognized as a Wyoming business "changemaker" for her response to COVID-19.

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## **The Honorable Caren Merrick**

### **Secretary of Commerce and Trade**

Caren Merrick is a business leader in the Commonwealth, with over 25 years of experience launching growth companies, reinventing companies, and leading business improvement transformation.

As the CEO of the Virginia Ready Initiative, Caren oversaw \$10 million in funding through Public-Private Partnerships to help mitigate the economic hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting labor shortages by retraining Virginians for in-demand careers.

At Virginia Ready, Caren has worked with EY, Bank of America, SAIC, Genworth Financial, PwC, Northrop Grumman, BAE, Sentara Health, Huntington Ingalls, Carillion Clinic and the Virginia Community College System. To date, over 3,500 Virginians are completing accelerated credential courses for in-demand skills in technology, healthcare, manufacturing and skilled trades and over 1/3 have been hired by Virginia businesses. Caren is known as a strategic, entrepreneurial leader and co-founded enterprise software company webMethods growing it from zero to \$200m and the most successful software IPO in history at offering. She is a partner in NextGen Venture Partners investing in category defining early stage companies.

Caren has built boards of directors including webMethods, Inc., the webMethods Foundation, and the Virginia Ready Initiative. She has served on Boards of public and private growth companies with combined assets of \$12B and revenues of \$3B across a variety of sectors, specializing in private equity and financial services, talent development and recruiting, transportation infrastructure and airport systems, and REITs. Previously she served as a board director for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

A Virginia resident since 1988, Caren and her husband of 28 years live in Northern Virginia and have two sons.

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## **The Honorable Bryan Slater**

### **Virginia Secretary of Labor**

"Bryan" Slater brings more than 20 years of experience to the Youngkin Administration with a wealth of knowledge and senior-level experience leading public, non-profit, and private sector organizations.

Bryan received his associate's degree from Ferrum College and his bachelor's degree in Political Science from University of Richmond and immediately began his career in politics. He has taken on roles large and small from campaign work to serving in senior management, operations, transformation, and administration.

In Virginia, Bryan served as Secretary of Administration for Governor James Gilmore (R-VA) and as Director of Administration for the Attorney General's Office under Attorney General James Gilmore. Most recently, Bryan served as Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management at the U.S. Department of Labor and Assistant Secretary of Administration for the U.S. Department of Transportation under President Trump. He was the White House Liaison at the U.S. Department of Labor under President George W. Bush, where he managed all non-career appointee hiring, and as a congressional relations officer for the Department of Housing and Urban Development under President George H.W. Bush.

Bryan has served in numerous senior positions in non-profit organizations including Americans United for Life, Freedom Partners Shared Services, and Generation Opportunity. He was also the former Executive Director of the Republican Party of Georgia.

Bryan is a recipient of the 2007 Innovation in Government Award from the Virginia Commonwealth University Wilder School of Government, as well as previously serving on the Board of Visitors for Virginia Commonwealth University.

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# The Honorable Glenn Youngkin

## Governor of Virginia

Governor Glenn Youngkin is a homegrown Virginian who grew up in Richmond and Virginia Beach. As his father changed jobs, Governor Youngkin 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, he 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, Governor Youngkin and his wife Suzanne moved to Northern Virginia. He landed a job at The Carlyle Group, where he spent the next 25 years. Working his way to the top of the company, Governor Youngkin 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 over 27 years to his amazing wife Suzanne, Governor Youngkin is a dedicated father of four wonderful children. Their family journey has been and continues to be guided by their faith.

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