

FAIRFAX COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

VA CHAMBER  
FOUNDATION

VIRGINIA FORUM ON  
DIVERSITY,  
EQUITY, &  
INCLUSION

JUNE 22ND, 2023

10:00AM-12:00PM

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# 2023 FORUM ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

## 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. His 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.

Mr. DuVal served as the Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1998 through 2002. 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 which he cofounded with his father in 1983. Additionally, he served as President and CEO of Kaufman & Canoles Consulting, LLC, an economic development consulting firm from 2002 until joining the Virginia Chamber of Commerce as President & CEO in 2010.

Mr. DuVal is a graduate of James Madison University and American University's Washington College of Law.



### **Bryan Hill** **Fairfax County Executive Fairfax County Executive**

Bryan J. Hill was appointed as County Executive by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors effective January 2, 2018. He was the Chief Administrative Officer and Clerk to the Board for James City County since 2014; he previously spent seven years with Beaufort County, S.C. as deputy county administrator.

As the Chief Administrative Officer of Fairfax County, Mr. Hill oversaw the creation and approval of the county's recently-approved FY 2019 \$4.29 billion general fund budget. He manages the daily operations of an organization with over 12,000 employees who provide support and services to the 1.3 million residents of Fairfax County. Mr. Hill is leading the development of a strategic plan for the county. He is a Commissioner on the Commission of Fire Accreditation (CFAI), representing the ICMA County Managers.

At James City County, Mr. Hill was responsible for oversight of staff, major infrastructure projects, economic development, transportation initiatives and the development and implementation of the county's first strategic plan. He recently led the realignment of the county's debt portfolio, which resulted in AAA ratings from each of the three major bond rating agencies.

He has a bachelor's degree in public administration from Alfred University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.



### **Shena Ashley** **Vice President, Community Impact & Initiatives & President, Capital One Foundation**

Shena Ashley, PhD became the head of programs within the Community Impact and Investment team at Capital One and President of the Insights Center and the Capital One Foundation in May 2022. In this role, she is focusing on accelerating an innovative and equity-enhancing national philanthropic strategy that is based on and integrated with the highest quality of data and evidence.

Prior to starting her leadership journey in philanthropy, Dr. Ashley launched the Office of Race and Equity Research at the Urban Institute to stand as a center of excellence toward empowering race and equity consciousness throughout the field of policy research. This followed the collaborative launch of the Racial Equity Analytics Lab (REAL), an effort that brought data science and structural racism colleagues together

to create data tools and methods in response to the lack of racially disaggregated data at the start of the COVID pandemic.

An accomplished educator, consultant, and researcher, Dr. Ashley has been quoted as an expert thought leader on issues of philanthropy and charitable giving in several national media outlets including The Washington Post, NPR's Marketplace, and The Chronicle of Philanthropy among others.

As a nonprofit and philanthropy scholar, Dr. Ashley had the great fortune to lead the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy from 2016-2022. In that work, she led teams of researchers and strategists to build a research-in-action portfolio focused on community investing, equitable grantmaking, democratizing charitable giving, and nonprofit and philanthropic policy. Her passion for democratizing data led her to transform the National Center on Charitable Statistics to an open-data repository, which now makes decades of nonprofit data freely accessible to the public.

Dr. Ashley holds a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Georgia Tech and Georgia State University, a MPP from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree from Tennessee State University, an HBCU in Nashville, TN.



## **Sam Wiggins**

**Chairman of the Board, Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce**

Samuel Wiggins is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce. He is also Chairman and CEO of Student Housing of America, and President of Soteryx Corp. He has over 25 years of experience in executive leadership, security, and risk management. His expertise in the management of projects, people, and resources spans both private and government sectors.

In his career in the federal government, Mr. Wiggins worked for the Environmental Protection Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, and the Department of Defense. He served as United States Federal Agent from 2002 to 2017 performing and supervising criminal and national security investigations. During that time, he was the Special Agent in Charge of an executive protection detail for a member of the President's cabinet; he worked with the National Joint Terrorism Task force; and he served as a Whitehouse Homeland Security advisor.

In his current capacity as President of Soteryx Corp., he is responsible for contract negotiations, designing and implementing business strategies, and overseeing the operations of the company and the work of executives. As Chairman of the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce, he leads an organization that is committed to helping black owned businesses thrive through programs, resources, and advocacy. In his role as Chairman of Student Housing of America, he leads a non-profit dedicated to providing affordable housing and support programs for students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Mr. Wiggins received his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Southern University and A&M College. His most important accomplishments are being a loving husband to his wife, Stephanie Wiggins, and a proud father to their son, Matthew.



## **Dietra Trent, PhD**

**Executive Director, White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity through Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

Dietra 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 Virginia Commonwealth University. She has over twenty-five years of experience working to advance equity for Virginia's most disadvantaged populations.

Most recently, she served in several leadership positions at George Mason University, including chief of staff and interim VP for Compliance, Diversity, and Ethics. In 2016, Dr. Trent was appointed as Virginia's Secretary of Education. Prior to her appointment, she served as Deputy Secretary of Education, a position she also held during the administration of then-Governor Tim Kaine. Having served in the Administrations of three former Governors (including Mark Warner), as well as the Office of Congressman Bobby Scott, she has a wealth of federal, state, and higher education experience.



## Lakshmi Williams

**General Counsel, Transurban North America;  
Chair, Virginia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors**

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.



## Latoya Asia

**Director - Talent Acquisition, Workforce Development & Planning, DE&I, Dominion Energy**

Latoya Asia is Director – Talent Acquisition, Workforce Development & Planning, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) at Dominion Energy. In this role, she is responsible for developing and driving strategies to promote a diverse and inclusive work culture that attracts and retains the best and brightest to the company.

Prior to this role, Latoya served as Managing Counsel, Labor & Employment in Dominion Energy's Law Department.

Prior to joining Dominion Energy, Latoya spent over 12 years in various roles as both outside and in-house labor & employment legal counsel, a strategic HR business partner, a DE&I executive, and as a K-12 educator in Niamey, Niger.

Latoya is active in her community on issues relating to human rights and DE&I and serves in a leadership capacity on several boards. She currently serves as President of the William & Mary Law School Alumni Association Board, Co-Chair of the Virginia Energy Workforce Consortium, and as a member of the Virginia State Bar Diversity Conference Board of Governors. Latoya serves as an adjunct faculty at George Mason University's School of Business (Diversity in Organizations) and, beginning in fall 2023, will serve as an adjunct lecturer with Georgetown University's Master of Professional Studies in Human Resources Management program (Creating a Culture of Inclusion & Belonging).

Latoya earned a J.D. from William & Mary School of Law in Williamsburg, VA, and a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Virginia Commonwealth University. She lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband and daughter.



## Nathan Carter, PhD

**Chief Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Officer, Northern Virginia Community College**

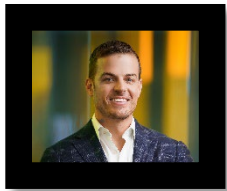
Dr. Nathan Carter is the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer (CDEIO) at Northern Virginia Community College, the second largest community college in the United States with six campuses and an extensive NOVA Online program across the Northern Virginia DC metro area. Dr. Carter oversees the college's Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, its Title IX office, and is the chief organizer, architect, and executive lead on NOVA's Inclusive Excellence DEI Strategic Plan. Dr. Carter is also a 2023-24 American Council of Education (ACE) Fellow.

In his role at NOVA, Dr. Carter provides executive strategy and oversight for funded DEI projects and continuing programs related to equity-mindedness, diversity practices, and culturally responsive pedagogy. As CDEIO, Dr. Carter also sits on NOVA's Administrative Council as a member of the President's senior leadership team and helps the college at all levels of institutional decision-making concerning DEI implications. Dr. Carter is the project director for NOVA's AAC&U Truth Racial Healing and Transformation Center (TRHT) and is the Principal Investigator (PI) of NOVA's 1.4 million dollar U.S. Dept of Education, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Grant Program.

Dr. Carter earned a bachelor's degree (B.A) in Communication from the University of the Pacific in the Spring of 2000, a master's degree (M.A.) in Communication with a minor in Theatre & Performance Studies from California State University Northridge in the Spring of 2002, and a Ph.D. in Communication Education with an emphasis on Intercultural Communication & Rhetoric from Howard University in the Spring of 2005.

Prior to various roles in higher education administration at NOVA, Dr. Carter spent over ten years teaching undergraduate and graduate classes in communication studies, research methods, intercultural communication, interpersonal Communication, debate & argumentation, and public speaking. Dr. Carter also worked on college and career readiness policies at the U.S. Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Education.

He currently serves on several governing boards, including American Association of Community College (AACC) Commission on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion and the Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) Appalachia Governing Board which is a direct affiliation with the Institute for Education Sciences (IES).



## **Patrick Phillippi**

### **Head of HQ2 Community Engagement, Amazon**

Patrick Phillippi leads Amazon's community engagement efforts across the Amazon HQ2 region that encompasses Virginia, Washington, D.C., and Maryland. In this role, Patrick works with nonprofits, civic groups, and small businesses to make Amazon the most trusted business and community partner in the region. This includes efforts to grow the region inclusively by focusing on racial justice, education, workforce development, and sustainability. Prior to Amazon, Patrick led JPMorgan Chase's corporate responsibility strategy in the Mid-

Atlantic region. He also has experience consulting for the nation's leading foundations on public policy. Patrick has been featured in the Washington Business Journal and as one of Northern Virginia's 40 under 40 by the Leadership Center for Excellence. Patrick and his husband Dave reside in Washington, D.C.



## **Michel Zajur**

### **Founder and President, Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**

Michel Zajur serves as the CEO and Founder of the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. For over two decades, Mr. Zajur has dedicated his efforts to empowering and supporting Latino entrepreneurs and businesses in the state of Virginia. Through his visionary approach and commitment to promoting economic growth and diversity, the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has grown into the top learning resource for

Latino's across the state.

Over the years, Michel's incredible dedication has garnered numerous prestigious awards and recognitions. From humanitarian to business champion awards, his impact on the community, business sector, and Hispanic empowerment efforts has earned widespread acclaim. The mission of the Virginia Hispanic Chamber is to build economic bridges throughout Virginia, while fostering entrepreneurship, creating opportunities, and advocating for the advancement of the Latino community.



## **My Lan Tran**

### **Executive Director, Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce**

Since 2011 until the present, as Administrator of the Virginia Asian Foundation and Executive Director of the Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce My Lan Tran expanded the then local area "Asian American Business Center" to today being the Mid Atlantic's Asian American economic development agency, known as the Official



Voice of more than 187,000 Asian American owned enterprises in Virginia, in addition to a fast growing network members from 9 states from the Mid-Atlantic and Southern States.

Between 2003 and 2011, My Lan was Program Manager of the City of Richmond Office of Minority Business Development where, in partnership with local, regional, state, national, and global partners, she successfully designed and implemented a national pilot program offering more than 5,000 small-diverse businesses critical technical services they need to succeed.

From 1996 to 2003, My Lan served the Commonwealth of Virginia as its International Trade Marketing Manager, then Investment Policy Analyst at the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) where she managed global trade marketing, and investment policy research and analysis. During her tenure at VEDP, she directly assisted hundreds of Virginia exporters to enter the global markets and helped Virginia lure dozens of major global companies to invest in Virginia.

Her core background lays in workforce development system design and administration. She was Career Assessment Director, then City of Quincy's Asian Career Center Director, Federal Grant Monitor, then Branch Administrator at three (3) of Massachusetts' One Stop Workforce Development Center and one Regional Office. As a Human Resources Manager, she played an integral role in designing Massachusetts Civil Service training for more than 2,000 state employees.

For 5 years she was a faculty member at Virginia Commonwealth University teaching undergraduate course works in Asian Political History, International Affairs, as well as VCU French language Instructor.

#### INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS & GLOBAL DIPLOMACY

My Lan 's leadership extends as well into the community in leadership roles in prominent associations such as the Virginia International Business Alliance, National Association for Business Economics, Sister Cities Commission as 3 terms as Chairwoman of 6 relationship between Richmond City and Japan, China, the UK, Namibia, Mali, the UK, and Poland.

#### FORMAL EDUCATION & ADVANCED TRAINING

From 2012 to 2017, My Lan was faculty member Instructor in Contemporary Asian Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of World Studies where she was also Advisor to the Asian Students majoring in Business and Finances.

In 1981, My Lan obtained a master's degree in international policy studies and advanced studies in Asian Affairs from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, California, and she completed post graduate business education from Thunderbird School of International Management, in Arizona, and advanced linguistics from the Université de Caen, France.

My Lan is certified as International Trade Specialist by N.A.S.D.A (National Association of State Development Agencies), the U.S. Department of Commerce/International Trade Administration, and as an Economic Development Specialist from the Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. She is certified in Supply Chain Management by the Institute of Supply Management, Black Belt/Six Sigma by Dupont, and in international logistics development from VCU. She completed advanced political history research at the University of California in Berkeley, CA, the Post Naval Graduate School in Monterey, CA, and the U.S. Veterans Training Institute at the University of Denver, CO. She is fluent in Spanish, English, Vietnamese, and French. She traveled extensively to 8 European countries and worked in Vietnam, as a journalist for Chinh Luan, the state national paper, and took assignments to represent the building materials and aerospace technology industry from Virginia at Batimat Trade Show in Paris and several Paris Air Shows at Le Bourget, France.

#### BUSINESS LEADERSHIP

My Lan Tran is Cabinet Advisors to more than a dozen institutions in the energy, transportation sectors, higher education, and regional and global economic development. She was recognized for her work in helping to reform Massachusetts 'workforce development system. She is a 2 times national award-winning professional by the SBA as its "Champion of Small Business" for Virginia and SBA Region III Region III in 6 U.S states. She earned distinguished leadership awards from the Military, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, U.S Department of Labor, and the US Department of Veteran Affairs. She was selected as Person Making a Difference of The Year "by the Richmond Times Dispatch newspaper and won awards for leadership excellence by the American Red Cross award for her proven leadership in advancing international community development in Virginia.

In June, she won Virginia Business Magazine's "Women in Leadership" Award of 2023 dues to be published in its July edition.



## Michele Chang

### Chief Strategy Officer, Strada Education Foundation

Michele Chang became Strada chief strategy officer in November 2022. She will lead a new strategy and innovation team in supporting efforts to improve outcomes of postsecondary education and training.

Chang most recently served in the Biden-Harris Administration as deputy assistant secretary for policy for the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration. In that position, she led the design, launch, and implementation of EDA's \$3 billion American Rescue Plan grant programs — including the Build

Back Better Regional Challenge and the Good Jobs Challenge — to help communities across the country accelerate their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before joining the Department of Commerce, Chang was the executive director for the Markle Foundation's Rework America Business Network, where she created and led a coalition of 12 Fortune 500 companies committed to adopting practices to place underrepresented workers without four-year degrees into quality jobs.

Previously, Chang served in the Obama Administration as acting chief of staff and deputy chief of staff at the U.S. Small Business Administration, where she managed the day-to-day operations of the 3,000+ person agency.

Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Chang worked at McKinsey & Company, where she helped local governments, public school systems and Fortune 500 companies alike tackle some of their most challenging and urgent issues. She has also held roles at PricewaterhouseCoopers and Hope Street Group, a national nonprofit where she led their national workforce development programs. Chang earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, in mathematics/applied sciences and her master's of business administration from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

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**THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!**