



# 2026 Virginia Healthcare Conference

June 3, 2026

Speaker Bios



# John E. Alex, M.D.

## CHSE-A, CHSOS-A, RDMS, FACEP, FAAEM, FSSH

Emergency Physician  
Healthcare Simulation Educator / Operations Specialist

Medical Director, Riverside Simulation Training Lab  
Chief Medical Officer, Riverside Mental Health and Recovery Center  
Adjunct Faculty, Emergency Medicine Residency  
Core Faculty, Advanced Ultrasound Fellowship Program  
Core Faculty, Transitional Year Residency  
Riverside Regional Medical Center, Newport News, VA  
Riverside Mental Health and Recovery Center, Hampton, VA

Dr. John E. Alex is a native of Toledo, Ohio where he was born and raised. In 1992 he began his Naval Career upon reporting to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD where he graduated with Merit and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. After graduation in 1996 he was commissioned as a Line Officer and stationed at Naval Air Station Pensacola where he served as the Assistant Total Quality Leadership (TQL) Department Head tasked with instructing the Fundamentals of TQL course for assigned NAS Pensacola personnel, and facilitating Executive Steering Committee meetings for the senior leadership. In 1998, Dr. Alex was approved for redesignation as a Cryptologist and he completed the Cryptologic Division Officer Course at NTTC Corry Station in Pensacola, FL. At the completion of training, he transferred to the Naval Security Group Activity in Ft. Meade, MD and was assigned to the National Security Agency where he served until 2001 as a Division Officer, Operational Watch Officer and Senior Intelligence Analyst. During this assignment, Dr. Alex also volunteered as an Emergency Medical Technician with the Germantown Volunteer Fire Department. In 2001, Dr. Alex returned to his lifelong goal of becoming a physician and began his medical training at the University of Miami School of Medicine. After medical school he completed a Transitional Internship at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP) and was accepted for training as a Naval Flight Surgeon. Dr. Alex returned to Pensacola in 2006 to complete flight training and was then assigned to Carrier Air Wing SEVENTEEN where he ultimately served as the Senior Flight Surgeon and Medical Department Head.

In 2009, Dr. Alex returned to NMCP to complete residency training in Emergency Medicine. After residency he stayed on at NMCP as a Staff Physician and in 2013, he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom serving as a Trauma Team Leader and Medical Director for En Route Care at a Role II medical facility in theater. After deployment, Dr. Alex returned to NMCP, was selected to be an Assistant Program Director for the Emergency Medicine Residency and served on multiple hospital committees. In 2015 he was selected to be the first Deputy Director of the Healthcare Simulation and Bioskills Training Center at NMCP where he led a staff of simulation specialists in efforts to provide essential medical training to hospital personnel, trainees, and local operational forces. In 2016, Dr. Alex transferred to U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa where he served as the Interim Department Head of Emergency Medicine, Chair of the Medical Staff Quality Committee, Medical Director of Healthcare Simulation, Chair of the Simulation Advisory Council, and the Director for Medical Services. While in Okinawa, Dr. Alex also established the hospital's first simulation center and led initiatives to maintain a ready medical force supporting operational commands in the region. In 2018, Dr. Alex again returned to NMCP and served as the first Director for Expeditionary Medicine under the newly formed Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) at Portsmouth.

Dr. Alex retired from the U.S. Navy after 20 years of military service. His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2 awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He is also a designated Naval Flight Surgeon and a qualified Fleet Marine Force Warfare Officer.

Dr. Alex is a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians, American Academy of Emergency Medicine and the Society for Simulation in Healthcare Academy. He holds the Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator Advanced (CHSE-A), Certified Healthcare Operations Specialist Advanced (CHSOS-A), and Registered Diagnostic Medical Sonographer (RDMS) credentials. He joined the Riverside Medical Group in June 2020 as a Staff Emergency Physician and Medical Director of the Riverside Simulation Training Lab. He also serves as the Chief Medical Officer at Riverside Mental Health and Recovery Center. He currently resides in Norfolk, Virginia with his wife Jennifer and children Conner and Morgan.



## Elena Bhamidipati

Partner

McKinsey & Company

Elena is a member of our Healthcare Practice. She has served insurance carriers on a broad range of issues, including sales operations and sales effectiveness, corporate strategy, diligences, and M&A. She co-leads McKinsey's work on insurance commercial analytics and sales effectiveness, as well as our dental client-service community.

Examples of her recent client work include the following:

- setting up the core sales operations engine for a multistate carrier selling through a broker channel, including talent acquisition, retention and training, sales support, proposal delivery, pipeline management, broker strategy, and other sales-enablement tools
- deploying frontline diagnostics and designing consultative capability building training, sales coaching training, and supporting tools for a regionally concentrated insurer
- leading buyer and target leadership across dental, life, and disability business lines and developing a coordinated go-to-market strategy and path forward on integration as part of a large merger-management program
- developing a strategy for standing up portfolio-management capabilities and integrating them into annual planning processes for a diversified health insurer

Prior to joining McKinsey in New York, Elena was based in the Singapore office where she was part of the Strategy & Corporate Finance Practice and served clients on issues such as frontline transformations, economic development, and strategy.



## Walter Coleman

Director of Healthcare Strategy and Finance  
Forvis Mazars

Walter is a director in Forvis Mazars' Healthcare Strategy and Finance group, focused on value-based care. Since joining the firm in 2014, Walter has worked with hundreds of hospitals on a variety of value-based care initiatives including episodic payments such as BPCI-A, CJR, and TEAM; population health; accountable care organizations and MSSP participation; clinically integrated networks; and mandatory hospital-based programs including value-based purchasing, hospital-acquired condition penalties, and the readmission reduction program.

Prior to joining Forvis Mazars, he worked for Bon Secours Health System in Richmond, Virginia, as the finance manager of healthcare reform.

Walter is a member of the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

He is a graduate of University of Virginia, Charlottesville, with a B.S. degree in economics, and a graduate of College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia, with an M.B.A. degree.



## Julie Dime

Vice President of Government Affairs  
Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association

Julie Dime serves as Vice President of Government Affairs at VHHA. She has more than 25 years of political, legislative, and non-profit management experience, including government relations, campaign management, grassroots management, public speaking, fundraising, community outreach initiatives, strategic planning, and legislative initiatives.

Prior to joining VHHA, Julie was the Director of Government Affairs in the Tyson's office of Williams Mullen. She has also served as the managing director for the Northern Virginia office of a highly regarded government affairs/lobbying firm. She served as the Chief of Staff and Senior Campaign Advisor for a Virginia State Delegate, overseeing all aspects of the legislative and public relations strategies and responses to legislative and constituent correspondence.

Julie serves on the Board of Directors for REAL LIFE, an organization that serves individuals who have been impacted by incarceration, homelessness, or substance abuse disorder by giving them an opportunity to overcome the personal and community barriers that hinder their pathway to a thriving life. In 2023, Julie was appointed to the Jamestown Yorktown Foundation Board of Trustees by Governor Glenn Youngkin.

Julie holds a B.S. degree in Government, summa cum laude, from Liberty University. She and her husband Todd reside in Midlothian, Virginia



## Dr. Mark T. Esser, Ph.D.

Chief Scientific Officer and Head of the UVA  
Manning Institute of Biotechnology  
University of Virginia

Dr. Esser joined the University of Virginia in May of 2025 as the inaugural Chief Scientific Officer and Head of the Manning Institute. Mark is responsible for the overall strategic direction and operations of the Manning Institute bringing early science from concept to the clinic.

Prior to joining UVA, Mark was the Vice President of R&D in the Vaccines & Immune Therapies division at AstraZeneca. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mark led AstraZeneca's COVID-19 monoclonal antibody (Evusheld™) program to a successful Emergency Use Authorization and supported R&D efforts for the authorization of the COVID-19 vaccine, Vaxzevria™. He also played a key role in the development and FDA approval of the RSV antibody Beyfortus™.

Prior to joining AstraZeneca, he was the director of the Vaccine and Biologics Center of Excellence at Pharmaceutical Product Development (PPD) and prior to PPD he was at Merck Vaccines where he held positions of increasing responsibility and was instrumental in the approval of GARDASIL® for the prevention of cervical cancer. He is widely recognized for his contributions to vaccine and immunology research with numerous patents and over 130 peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Esser received his B.S. in biochemistry from Case Western Reserve University, his doctorate in microbiology and immunology from University of Virginia and did his postdoctoral fellowship at the AIDS vaccine program at the National Institutes of Health.



## **Crystal Farmer** **MBA, MSN, RN, FACHE**

Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer  
at Augusta Health  
Augusta Health

Crystal Farmer is a seasoned healthcare executive currently serving as Chief Operating Officer at Augusta Health in Fishersville, Virginia, where she previously held the role of Chief Nursing Officer. With a career spanning clinical leadership and executive operations, she brings a comprehensive understanding of how to align people, processes, and strategy to drive high-quality care and organizational performance.

In her leadership roles, Crystal has overseen key areas including workforce development, clinical operations, and system-wide initiatives to improve access, efficiency, and patient outcomes. Her work has also included involvement in facility planning, ensuring that physical environments and capital investments support evolving care models and community needs.

Crystal is particularly passionate about innovation in healthcare—identifying practical ways to redesign care delivery, enhance both patient and caregiver experience, and respond to shifting demands across the continuum of care. She is focused on advancing sustainable, forward-thinking solutions that strengthen health systems while maintaining a strong commitment to quality and safety.

Known for her collaborative and results-driven approach, Crystal brings a pragmatic perspective to complex challenges. She is dedicated to developing strong leaders, building resilient teams, and shaping the future of healthcare through thoughtful, innovative leadership.



## Kathryn Falk

Market Vice President

Cox Communications

Kathryn Falk is the Vice President & Market Leader for Cox Communications in Northern Virginia. In this role she is responsible for leading employees and the day-to-day operations including operational performance, customer experience, business development and Cox's commitment to the community. Kathryn previously led government and public affairs efforts for Cox in Virginia including local, state and Federal Government relations, media relations, community relations, employee communications, charitable giving, video production. She joined the company in 2002.

Prior to Cox, Kathryn served as the President of the Virginia Cable Telecommunications Association (VCTA) based in Richmond, Virginia, for 5 years leading the organization through a transformation. Prior to that she was the Vice President for Government Relations and head of the Washington Office for the National Exchange Carrier Association, whose membership includes all of the nation's local telephone companies. Kathryn also previously led congressional and public relations at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners on telecommunications, transportation, and water issues. She began her career on Capitol Hill as an aide to United States Senator Dennis DeConcini of Arizona in the Washington, D.C. office.

Kathryn is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Inova Health System and is on the Board of Directors of Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce where she is a Past Chairman. She is also the Past Chairman of Educate Fairfax, previously known as the Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools. Additionally, she is a member of the Board of the Broadband Association of Virginia (VCTA) and she is a member of The Economic Club of Washington.

Kathryn was honored to be included in Washingtonian Magazine's 250 Most Powerful Women in Washington list in 2025 as well as the Washington Business Journal in the 2021 Class of Women Who Mean Business and Virginia Business Magazine's to be in its "Women In Leadership" Class of 2022. She was honored with the National Cable Telecommunications Association's Vanguard Award for Young Leadership and is a recipient of the Women in Cable Telecommunications (WICT) Washington Baltimore Chapter's Catalyst Award, the VCTA's President's Award, the VCTA's J.L. Johnson-Roger Beane Award for Pioneering Efforts in Cable TV in Virginia, and the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute's Expressions of Ideals award. Most recently, she was inducted into the Fairfax County Public Schools Hall of Fame.

Kathryn is a graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, where she studied politics and communications and is a proud graduate of Fairfax County Public Schools. She completed the Cox Enterprises Inc. Executive Development Program including the Outward Bound Professional Program; the University of Georgia Terry School of Business Cox Communications Executive Development Program and Leadership Certificate; Harvard Business School's CTAM Executive Management Program, the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership's Political Leaders Program and the WICT Betsy Magness Leadership Institute Fellowship program.

Kathryn and her family reside in Virginia.



# The Honorable Marvin B. Figueroa

Secretary of Health and Human Resources  
Commonwealth of Virginia

Marvin B. Figueroa currently serves as Governor Spanberger's Secretary of Health and Human Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Across the private and public sectors, he has focused on expanding access to affordable care, strengthening programs that support families, and improving how government meets the needs of communities. His career has been guided by a core belief that policy should widen opportunity and give people a fair shot.

Figueroa has held senior leadership roles across the federal government, advancing bipartisan efforts to improve health outcomes and modernize national policy. As a senior official at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, he worked closely with governors, state agencies, and local leaders to carry out national priorities and strengthen the delivery of essential services. During his time as Health Policy Advisor to U.S. Senator Mark Warner, he helped craft and pass the CHRONIC Care Act, landmark legislation that improved care for individuals with complex medical needs and strengthened Medicare's ability to support people living with chronic conditions. He later served as a Chief of Staff in the U.S. Senate.

A longtime Virginian, Figueroa previously served as Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources under Governor Ralph Northam. In that role, he collaborated with agency leaders, health systems, and community partners to expand Medicaid, broaden behavioral health supports, strengthen social services, and improve public health operations. These efforts expanded the Commonwealth's capacity to deliver services across both rural and urban communities and helped ensure programs were dependable and responsive to residents' needs.

Figueroa shares Governor Spanberger's commitment to practical, results-driven solutions that matter at the kitchen table. Throughout his career, he has worked across party lines to improve access to care, respond to community challenges, and ensure government delivers meaningful progress. His approach to public service emphasizes listening first, building strong partnerships, and focusing on outcomes people can see and feel.

Figueroa is a graduate of the University of Virginia Sorensen Political Leaders Program and Lead Virginia. Originally from La Ceiba, Honduras, and a POSSE Foundation Scholar, he earned degrees from Vanderbilt University and Harvard University.

He lives in Richmond, Virginia, and remains deeply committed to serving the Commonwealth he has long called home.



## Don Halliwill

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
Carilion Clinic

As Chief Financial Officer for Carilion Clinic, Don Halliwill oversees all financial activities of the organization as well as strategy development and implementation across clinical and business lines.

He joined Carilion in 1997 after several years in health care finance. He gradually assumed increasing management responsibilities, including CEO of Carilion New River Valley Medical Center and CFO of Carilion's hospital division, before being named to his current role in 2013.

As Carilion's CFO, Mr. Halliwill helped lead its re-organization from a hospital system to a patient-centered, physician-led Clinic while successfully navigating the impacts of payment reform.

He earned his undergraduate degree from Virginia Tech and master's of business administration from Wake Forest's Babcock School of Business.



## Ann Harbour

Executive Director, Government Affairs-Virginia  
Johns Hopkins University and Medicine

Ann Harbour is the Director of Government Affairs for the State of Virginia. Prior to working at Hopkins, Ann was the Director of Government Affairs at CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, where she worked to implement proactive strategies to advance CareFirst's mission of quality, affordable health care.

With over a decade of health policy experience, Ann has worked for both commercial and Medicaid health plans as well as Inova Health System. Before moving to Northern Virginia, Ann worked for the Virginia Association of Health Plans and the Virginia House of Delegates in Richmond.

### **Education**

Ann is a graduate of LEAD Virginia and the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership and an Alexandria Chamber of Commerce 40 Under 40 Honoree.

She received a Bachelor of Journalism from the University of Texas at Austin and a Masters of Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.



## Dr. David Hasleton

Chief Clinical Officer

Bon Secours

David Hasleton, MD, serves as the chief clinical officer for Bon Secours Richmond. He is responsible for overseeing clinical operations and provides strategic leadership to ensure the highest standards of clinical excellence, patient safety, and quality outcomes across the Richmond market.

Dr. Hasleton brings more than 20 years of leadership experience in integrated health care delivery systems to the ministry, including serving most recently as chief medical officer for Intermountain Health, where he oversaw enterprise-wide clinical and operational outcomes across five states.

Dr. Hasleton earned his medical degree from the University of Illinois where he also earned his master of business administration. In addition, he holds a bachelor of science in zoology from Brigham Young University. Dr. Hasleton is also board-certified in emergency medicine, with active clinical experience as an attending physician and adjunct clinical professor at Oregon Health and Science University, and the University of Utah.



## Adam Hofheimer

Principal of Public Services  
CapTech

Adam is driven to exceed expectations. As the leader of CapTech's healthcare and government consulting practice, he maintains a keen focus on reducing fraud, waste, and abuse through deep technical experience and intuitive platforms. He also works to improve our internal operations, organization, profitability, and efficiency.

Adam has always had an entrepreneurial bent. Energized by shifting gears between varying lanes, you may find him whiteboarding one day, developing long-term growth strategies the next, and always, always working to build strong internal and external relationships.

Estimating that we've saved clients billions of dollars over the years, Adam remains focused on CapTech being the best partner a client could have, solving the most complex problems, and continuously delivering long-term success for our clients and our company.



## Edmond E. Hughes

Executive Vice President and  
Chief Human Resources Officer

HII; Member of the Virginia Chamber of  
Commerce Board of Directors

Edmond Hughes is executive vice president and chief human resources officer of HII, America's largest military shipbuilder and global all-domain defense technologies provider.

Serving in this role since 2022, Hughes is responsible for driving alignment of HII's talent and culture strategies with business priorities and values. As a member of the senior leadership team, Hughes oversees talent acquisition, management and succession planning, leadership development, compensation, benefits, employee and labor relations, and organizational effectiveness.

Previously, Hughes was vice president, human resources and administration for HII's Ingalls Shipbuilding division, where he was responsible for leading all aspects of the human resources function related to the attraction, development and retention of the workforce.

Before joining HII, Hughes was director of human resources for the North America Braking & Suspension product line of TRW, which included responsibilities for all human resources services for 13 manufacturing plants. He also has human resource and leadership experience with General Motors and TRW Automotive.

Hughes holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Tougaloo College and an MBA from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University.

He serves on the boards of Virginia Chamber of Commerce and Virginia Early Childhood Foundation. He was chair of the board of trustees at Tougaloo College and 2024-2025 United Way of Virginia Peninsula, Campaign Cabinet.



## Dr. Michael Hooper

EVP,  
Chief Clinical Officer  
Sentara

Michael Hooper oversees the vision and strategy for medical staff affairs, healthcare quality, and clinical process improvement in his Chief Clinical Officer role. He also oversees the development of graduate medical education initiatives, clinical education programs, academic affiliation agreements, and research programs.

### **Prior Experience**

Michael previously served as SVP, Chief Medical and Academic Officer from 2024 to 2025, and served as the Chief Medical Officer for Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, between 2019 and 2024. After completing residency and fellowship training at Vanderbilt in 2011, Dr. Hooper began his career with Eastern Virginia Medical School as clinical faculty in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine.

He is currently an Associate Professor of Medicine for the Macon and Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University. While in his clinical role, he served as the Sentara lead physician for Sepsis Quality Improvement and Critical Care Medicine Quality, chaired the Sentara Health EPIC order set governance committee, earned board certification in clinical informatics, and served as a Sentara Health medical director for medical informatics.



## Dr. Ameya Kulkarni

Executive Medical Director, Mid-Atlantic States  
Kaiser Permanente

Dr. Ameya Kulkarni serves as the executive medical director for Kaiser Permanente in the Mid-Atlantic and leads one of the largest multispecialty medical groups on the East Coast.

He employs more than 1,800 Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group physicians across 65 medical and surgical specialties. Together, they deliver superior health care to approximately 750,000 Kaiser Permanente members in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia at more than 35 medical centers and 10 hospitals in the region. Dr. Kulkarni is responsible for \$1.1 billion annual operating revenue.

Dr. Kulkarni completed his medical degree at the Yale University School of Medicine and his residency in internal medicine at Columbia University Medical Center. He completed a fellowship in cardiology at the University of California, San Francisco, with a concentration in adult congenital heart disease. He also completed an advanced fellowship in interventional cardiology at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. Kulkarni joined the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group in 2013 and has held several key leadership positions, including chair of the Cardiovascular Institute, chief of Cardiology in Northern Virginia, chief of Vascular Surgery, and associate medical director for medical subspecialty operational excellence and emerging marketing enterprises.

Driven by a focused commitment to excellence, Dr. Kulkarni champions superior care quality and an outstanding patient experience. The Mid-Atlantic region is established as a national leader, earning a 5 out of 5 rating from the National Committee for Quality Assurance for its commercial health insurance plan, a distinction held for seven consecutive years and unmatched by any other health plan in the country.

Kaiser Permanente's physicians consistently deliver an exceptional care experience, reflected in an average Google review score of 4.9 out of 5. Patients also benefit from specialty appointment wait times that are nearly four times faster than those offered by other regional health systems, underscoring a relentless focus on speed to care.

Beyond his leadership role, Dr. Kulkarni remains active in clinical practice and was named a Top Doctor in 2025 by Washingtonian Magazine, Northern Virginia Magazine, and Arlington Magazine. Dr. Kulkarni also is president of the [American Heart Association Greater Washington Region Board of Directors](#), where he leads initiatives to improve community health through better access to nutritious food, expanded CPR education, hypertension prevention, and support for overall well-being.



## Betsy Lewis

Associate Vice President for Business Development, Labcorp Employer Services  
LabCorp

Betsy Lewis is a seasoned healthcare leader with more than 22 years of experience at Labcorp, bringing a unique perspective that spans healthcare delivery, business strategy, and workforce health. She spent over two decades leading and supporting growth initiatives across the Mid Atlantic region, partnering closely with large health systems, federally qualified health centers, physician group practices, and business development leaders to expand access, strengthen partnerships, and drive sustainable growth.

Throughout her career, Betsy has served as a trusted advisor across the healthcare ecosystem by connecting clinical, operational, and commercial priorities to deliver solutions that improve both outcomes and efficiency. Her work has included supporting acquisition strategies, advancing market expansion, and helping organizations navigate an increasingly complex environment shaped by reimbursement pressures, rising costs, and the shift toward value-based care.

Today, Betsy leads the commercial organization nationally for Labcorp Employer Services, where she focuses on helping employers play a more active role in shaping healthier, more productive workforces. Her team delivers integrated solutions that support safe and compliant work environments through workplace drug and clinical testing, while also addressing long-term cost drivers through biometric screenings, flu vaccination programs, and wellness coaching services. These efforts are designed to not only improve employee health, but also help organizations better manage risk, enhance productivity, and strengthen employer-sponsored coverage as a critical component of workforce stability.

With a strong understanding of both provider and employer perspectives, Betsy is passionate about advancing collaboration across sectors to address the underlying drivers of healthcare costs, including chronic disease and social determinants of health, and to support a more transparent, accountable, and outcomes-driven healthcare system.



## Keith Martin

Interim President and CEO  
Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Keith Martin serves as Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. As Interim President and CEO, he leads the Chamber's strategic direction, operations, and statewide partnerships.

Martin previously served the Virginia Chamber from 2011 to 2024 as Executive Vice President of Public Policy and General Counsel, and as Executive Director of the Virginia Chamber Foundation. In these roles, he oversaw the Chamber's advocacy and legislative agenda on behalf of Virginia's business community and played a key role in developing the Chamber's public policy recommendations, including major contributions to three editions of Blueprint Virginia, the Commonwealth's long-term business plan for economic competitiveness.

Most recently, Martin served as Director of Government Relations for Appalachian Power, where he managed legislative and regulatory affairs in Virginia and supported initiatives to advance energy reliability and economic growth across the region. He previously served as Policy Director for the Virginia Department of Transportation, where he worked closely with state and federal policymakers to advance major infrastructure priorities.

Martin began his career in public policy more than two decades ago and has earned a reputation as a trusted advocate and collaborator among business leaders, policymakers, and chambers of commerce across Virginia. His expertise spans economic development, energy, transportation, workforce, and regulatory affairs.

A proud Hokie, Martin holds both bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Tech and earned his Juris Doctor from Thomas Cooley Law School. Martin has been an active participant in numerous statewide policy councils and business advisory groups and continues to champion initiatives that strengthen Virginia's position as the best state for business. He resides in Virginia with his family.



## Nicole Overley

Commissioner  
Virginia Works

Appointed as Commissioner of Virginia Works by Governor Abigail Spanberger, Nicole leads the Commonwealth's unified workforce development and apprenticeship agency. Her efforts help to ensure that every Virginian has a pathway to their best career and every employer can find the talent they need to succeed, while building the workforce infrastructure Virginia needs to compete for decades to come.

Serving the Commonwealth fulfills a childhood dream of public service for Nicole. She previously served under Governor Glenn Youngkin as Deputy Secretary of Labor for Workforce Development, and she brings more than a decade of experience at Deloitte Consulting, where she built the firm's public sector Future of Work practice from the ground up and became a nationally recognized voice on workforce trends.

She was named to Consulting Magazine's "35 under 35" for her work advising government, nonprofit, and higher education clients across the country and was given Deloitte's "Good, Good, Good" award for responsible leadership and public sector impact.

Nicole holds two degrees from Johns Hopkins University and has served as a Superminds Fellow with MIT and as a Woodrow Wilson Research Fellow at Johns Hopkins. Some of her proudest achievements include hiking Mount Everest Base Camp and visiting all 50 US states. In her free time, she can be found exploring places she hasn't been before across Virginia and beyond.



## Kristin Parde

Deputy Vice President for State Advocacy  
PhRMA

At PhRMA, my work in State Advocacy is driven by a commitment to foster innovation and improve access to medicines.

My role as Deputy Vice President involves a meticulous blend of health care policy development, team and member management, and robust industry advocacy.

During my over two decades in government relations, I have focused on key legislative issues such as 340B, Medicaid, healthcare access and affordability, and civil justice reform.

### **Education**

Franciscan University of Steubenville



## Rufus Phillips

CEO

Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics

Rufus Phillips has served as CEO of the Virginia Association of Free and Charitable Clinics since 2019.

In this role, he leads the Association in fulfilling its mission to support and advocate for its 71 member clinics so that Virginia's underserved populations have access to quality care.

Previously, he held senior management positions with various healthcare organizations, including the Medical Society of Virginia, WellcomeMD, and n1Health.

He holds a BA from the University of Virginia and an MBA from the University of Virginia Darden School of Business.



## Monica Schmude

President, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Virginia

First Vice Chair of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Monica Schmude serves as President for Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield in Virginia which serves over 3 million customers and employs more than 8,000 associates in the Commonwealth. She is responsible for the strategic direction, performance, and growth of Anthem's commercial business in Virginia. She also partners with healthcare providers to fulfill the company's mission of improving the lives and communities served across the state.

Monica joined Anthem in April 2023 and previously served as the Market President for Cigna Healthcare in the Mid-Atlantic Region, which included the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. Her prior roles during her 13-year tenure with Cigna included President of the Liberty Valley market and a series of progressively responsible roles in the Mid-Atlantic market.

Before joining Cigna, Monica was with Aetna as the manager of sales and business services for its middle market segment business in Chicago and additionally served as the business services leader in the Mid-Atlantic. She began her career for Guardian Insurance Company as a claims examiner and has more than 30 years of industry experience.

Monica earned a bachelor's degree in industrial/organizational psychology with a concentration in women's studies from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. She currently serves as the President of the Executive Board, Virginia Association of Health Plans (VAHP), Board member of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Wolf Trap Foundation, Choral Arts Society of Washington, Leadership Greater Washington and Champions for Children. Additionally, Monica has been appointed to the Dean's Council University of Maryland School of Public Health. She serves as a national advisor to the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA). She previously served on the Board of the Greater Washington Board of Trade Board of Directors, Marymount University Board of Trustees, Mid-Atlantic Business Group on Health and Girls on the Run Northern Virginia. She is a member of The Economic Club of Washington DC and Leadership Greater Washington Class of 2020.

Monica was recently recognized on the 2024 Virginia Women in Leadership list (Virginia Business Magazine), named to the Power 100 List in 2023 and 2024 (Washington Business Journal), the Most Powerful Women in Washington (Washingtonian Magazine, 2022), and Virginia 500 Power List (Virginia Business Magazine 2022). Previously she was named to the 2021 Most Powerful Women in Washington (Washingtonian Magazine), named an honoree for the Washington Business Journals 2021 Women Who Mean Business awards, the 2019 Most Powerful Women in Washington (Washingtonian Magazine), 2019 March of Dimes Heroine of Washington Award, and served as the 2019 Program Chair for the Mid-Maryland Mission of Mercy.



## Jennifer Siciliano

Chief External Affairs Officer, UVA Health  
Chair, Virginia Chamber Board of Directors  
Chair, Virginia Chamber Search Committee

As UVA Health's chief external affairs officer, Siciliano builds strong relationships with elected officials and teams at the federal, state, and local levels to support UVA Health's mission and goals. She brings strategic experience and longstanding connections with leaders on Capitol Hill and in Richmond.

Siciliano comes from Inova Health System, where she served as the chief external affairs officer, serving the northern Virginia area. Among her many accomplishments, she built high-performing government and community relations teams to engage employees in legislative and regulatory priorities.

Previously, Siciliano served members of the U.S. Congress in both the House of Representatives and the Senate before representing many high-profile clients.

She currently serves as the Chair of the Virginia Chamber Board of Directors.



## Dr. James Thompson

Co-founder and Chief Medical Officer  
The Master Center for Addiction Medicine

James Thompson is the co-founder and chief medical officer at Master Center for Addiction Medicine, a groundbreaking addiction treatment program headquartered in Glen Allen, Va. Master Center offers a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach rarely seen in the outpatient setting, staffed by experienced addiction physicians, psychiatrists, counselors, therapists, and peer recovery coaches. This evidence-based approach, both reliable and flexible, is meant to provide a physician-oriented response to addiction that can work seamlessly in the mainstream system of healthcare.

Dr. Thompson received his medical degree from VCU School of Medicine in 2004 and completed a residency in Internal Medicine at MCV Hospitals. He joined the American Society for Addiction Medicine in 2007 while still a resident and has been practicing in the field of Addiction Medicine since that time in a wide spectrum of settings. He was awarded Diplomate status by the American Board of Addiction Medicine in 2013 and was recognized as a Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine the following year.

Dr. Thompson serves in both the Medical Society of Virginia and the Richmond Academy of Medicine, and a past president of the Virginia chapter of ASAM. Dr. Thompson has been an outspoken educator and advocate for the development of a more accessible and effective approach to addiction treatment. He has been a presenter at the Virginia Summer Institute on Addiction Studies, the Educational Series at the Farley Center, National Lifestyle Intervention Conference, MSV Infuse and has been a guest lecturer at UVA and VCU Schools of Nursing and Social Work. In July 2021, Dr. Thompson was appointed by Governor Ralph Northam to serve on the Opioid Abatement Authority for the State of Virginia.

He has appeared on 'Virginia This Morning' and 'Ask the Doctor' for WTVR (CBS) in Richmond to discuss the Overdose Crisis and National Recovery Month. Dr. Thompson was also featured on the prestigious Virginia Currents program for Virginia Public Television in 2020 and his pioneering work in treating opioid use disorder was the center of the documentary film "Heroin, the Hardest Hit", produced by the office of state Attorney General in 2015. Dr. Thompson was instrumental in the effort to make naloxone (Narcan) rescue widely available in Virginia without prescription. He has been awarded 'Top Doc' in Addiction Medicine by Richmond Magazine in 2017, 2018, 2021, and 2023.