

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

OPENING KEYNOTE

ABBY VERDILLO HAMILTON

PRESIDENT & CEO

UNITED WAY OF ROANOKE VALLEY



Abby Hamilton is a nonprofit Executive with more than two decades of experience developing and empowering high-performing teams to drive transformational social change. She currently serves as the President and CEO of United Way of Roanoke Valley, and prior to that the Vice President for Community Impact since 2011. She provides leadership and overall direction for the organization's investments in the community, and its efforts in mobilizing partners to deliver on United Way's vision to "elevate 10,000 families to self-sufficiency by 2030." Her life's work has had a special emphasis on collective impact, specifically building and growing collaborations among multiple organizations to achieve community wide outcomes on key issues; and empowering communities to be part of that grassroots effort.

CLOSING KEYNOTE

JENNIFER THOMAS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS



Jennifer Thomas is currently the Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM), as well as Adjunct Faculty at John Tyler Community College. She serves as the President of the Coalition of State Museum Associations, as well as on the Museum Advisory Council of the National Women's History Museum. Prior to becoming director of VAM, she spent 13 years as Program Director, organizing all of the professional development and educational activities of the association. She has also worked for history museums in upstate New York and Richmond, VA, as educator and director. Thomas has an MA from the University of Delaware's Winterthur Program in Early American Culture, a BA from the College of William & Mary, and was awarded the Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation in 2018.



FAST TRACK SESSION BOARD AND/OR MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT



BLAIR DURHAM

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
BLACK BRAND

Blair Durham is wife, a homeschooling mother of three, community leader and Hokie Alumni best known for her pioneering efforts to bring about platforms to grow, educate, and equip black business owners with the network and knowledge needed to build and sustain success. To that end, Blair helped to found Black BRAND, Hampton Roads' Regional Black Chamber of Commerce, and serves as its president. Through the organization, she has spearheaded a popular weekly terrestrial radio show and podcast, Black Wall Street Today, a mobile app, and several annual conferences. The organization is also now piloting a CDFI and accelerator concept to assist the business community with accessing needed capital and technical assistance. Blair is also a Bible enthusiast who enjoys sharing the good news of the kingdom message. Blair recently initiated and helped to found a nonprofit co-op and microschool, Kaleidoscope Academy. In her spare time, she enjoys smoothies, cooking, writing, exercise, texting, travel, popcorn and playing cards.



CHARM BULLARD

SENIOR ADVISOR TO CEO
VIRGINIA CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Charm Bullard is Senior Advisor to the CEO at the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC), an organization that works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success through inclusion. In her role, she designs and facilitates educational programs on diversity, equity, and inclusion for institutions across Virginia. Charm particularly specializes in VCIC's workplace and community programs. Since joining the VCIC team in 2016, Charm has had the opportunity to conduct over 400 workshops across the Commonwealth of Virginia. She is particularly known for her warmth and humor as a facilitator. Prior to joining VCIC, Charm spent 11 years working in various student affairs roles on collegiate campuses throughout the Southeast. It was during that time that she found her passion for encouraging and supporting diversity and inclusion. One accomplishment she is particularly proud of is founding the Connecting Women of Color Conference at the University of Richmond, which was featured in Women in Higher Education and Essence magazines.



KRISTIE HELMICK PROCTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CENTER FOR RURAL VIRGINIA

Kristie Helmick Proctor is a rural Virginia native and accomplished organizational leader. Since 2017, Mrs. Proctor has served as Executive Director of The Virginia Rural Center, an organization that works to promote economic prosperity in rural areas. In 2021, Proctor will oversee the launch of the Virginia Rural Leadership Institute. Its goal is to attract, develop and retain leaders in the state's rural communities. Before joining The Virginia Rural Center, Kristie served at the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's largest small business association, where she managed a team of staff that implemented and oversaw grassroots activities in 17 different states. Kristie sits on a variety of boards, including Governor Northam's Broadband Advisory Council, Partners for Rural America (PRA) and Virginia Housing's Rural Housing Advisory Council.



FAST TRACK SESSION VOLUNTEERISM AND/OR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



TRINITY VILLANUEVA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PUBLIC ART RESTON

Tara "Trinity" Villanueva is an advocate for equitable arts access to DC arts organizations for its immigrant communities. Trinity elevates arts accessibility in adult basic education and at all levels for English-language learners. She is the Past President of Art Education DC and co-founded Mixt Collective, a space for artists navigating paucal communities. To engage in self-care, she paints murals with her son, writes on topics that speak to her, and performs in a hip hop band. She brings knowledge to her work from her Taino, Ilocano, and Kanaka Maoli ancestors, and is an alumna of IU Jacobs School of Music, Trinity College Dublin, University of Pennsylvania, and NAEA School for Art Leaders.



JOANIE PETTY

CEO
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF THE BLUE RIDGE

Joanie Petty is the Chief Executive Officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Blue Ridge and the Danville Area Where over 2400 school-aged youth and teens are mentored collectively after school and during the summer. Joanie is a native of Gretna, Virginia and a 15-year resident of Martinsville-Henry County. She has spent her career working with youth in the nonprofit sector and also serving on several community coalitions, boards of directors, and task forces that serve the rural Southwest Virginia Area.



HOPE SINCLAIR, PH.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS HAMPTON ROADS

Hope R. Sinclair, Ph.D. is the Executive Director of Communities In Schools of Hampton Roads (CISofHR). With a professional background in Psychology, Dr. Sinclair began working extensively with nonprofit organizations in 2005. As the Executive Director of the nation's leading most effective dropout prevention program, Dr. Sinclair is leading the movement in Hampton Roads to give young people the help they need to not only graduate high school but to become productive citizens. Inside and outside of CISofHR, she is working to bridge the gap between what our youth need and what our youth are expected to achieve. Her solo practice, Hope Experts, LLC continues to promote youth development and excellence throughout the area by leading the decision to provide quality substance abuse training and counseling services to juveniles and families. Her practice focus is on providing information to youth, parents and community partners about the dangers of substance abuse, the long term effects, and safe and productive alternatives.



FAST TRACK SESSION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND/OR FUNDRAISING



SHARHONDA WOODS

CDO
FORKIDS

Sharhonda Woods is the Chief Development Officer at ForKids, a nonprofit that impacts the lives of over 70,000 people in southeastern Virginia each year through homeless services for families and individuals. Before leading the fundraising, community engagement, and volunteer teams at ForKids, Sharhonda most recently served as a regional Vice President of Development for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and as the Senior Director of Development for United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona. In addition to over 13 years of fundraising experience, Sharhonda is an Air Force veteran. She holds a Master's in Human Resources Management from Troy University and a B.A. in Criminal Justice from the University of Alabama.



CANDRA PARKER

DIRECTOR OF GRANT PROGRAMS & DEVELOPMENT
CULTUREWORKS

Candra Parker has over 25 years of non-profit leadership, including expertise in fund development and grants with community-based local, regional, national and international non-profit organizations. Currently, she is the Director of Grant Programs and Development at CultureWorks, a non-profit whose mission is to strengthen artists and arts and culture organizations to increase their impact in metro Richmond and the Tri-Cities. Candra holds an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh and a BA from the University of Virginia. Her past non-profit leadership experience includes serving as Board Chair of Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia and immediate past president of the Omega Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. In addition, she is an avid quilter and textile artist and was recently elected to serve as the east coast Regional Representative for the Board of Directors of the Modern Quilt Guild.



TIFFANY HAWORTH

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DAN RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION

Tiffany Haworth's experience ranges from the corporate to the educational to the nonprofit sectors. She has worked for, and consulted with, hundreds of nonprofits, corporations and foundations throughout the United States and Europe and taught at community colleges both in North Carolina and Virginia. Her career has focused on developing strategic initiatives that build the strength of communities and inspire people to get involved in making the world a better place. In 2011, Tiffany joined the staff at the Dan River Basin Association (DRBA), headquartered in Eden, NC. DRBA is dedicated to preserving and promoting the natural and cultural resources of the 3,300 square mile Dan River Basin in Virginia and North Carolina. DRBA provides thousands of students with environmental education programs every year, works with hundreds of volunteers to clean-up and monitor our local waterways, inspires people of all ages to enjoy the outdoors with free monthly outings and partners with municipalities to build trails and river accesses to promote economic development.



HOKIE HIGHLIGHT SPEAKER BIOS



JULIE WALTERS STEELE

DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA TECH REYNOLDS HOMESTEAD

Having grown up on a farm in South Carolina, Julie Walters-Steele is delighted to live on a farm in rural Critz, Virginia where she serves as the Director of Reynolds Homestead, a Commonwealth Campus Center of Virginia Tech. In her current role she oversees a Community Enrichment Center and historic Rock Spring Plantation as well as a Creative Arts Center located in Stuart, Virginia. Prior to her role at Reynolds Homestead, Julie served as Director of University Unions at Virginia Tech; the Director of University Unions at Western Carolina University; and during a 14-year span she held a variety of posts at Clemson University, beginning as an Assistant Director of Student Development and culminating in the role of Director of Union Programs and Major Events. Throughout her 30-year tenure in higher education administration, Julie has sought opportunities to develop collaborative partnerships that affect positive change. For the past four years, Julie has been honored to serve as Virginia's lead facilitator for the AIR Institute, an organization providing workshops and education to help communities grow creative economies.



TONYA PRICE, PH.D.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR & 4-H SPECIALIST

VIRGINIA TECH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Tonya T. Price, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor and 4-H Specialist at Virginia Tech specializing in teen leadership and development, healthy living, and character education. She grew up in the Virginia 4-H program and has been employed with Virginia Cooperative Extension since 2000. Over her twenty-year tenure, Dr. Price has shared her knowledge and passion for her specialty areas on the local, regional, state, national, and international stage. Dr. Price holds a B.S. in Business Management from George Mason University, an Ms.ED. in Adult Education/Human Resource Development from James Madison University and a Ph.D. in Career and Technical Education from Virginia Tech. Realizing the positive impact 4-H had on her own life as a child, Dr. Price is committed to making a difference in the lives of youth.



SARA STEINERT BORELLA, PH.D.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VIRGINIA TECH STEGER CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Sara Steinert Borella recently joined Outreach and International Affairs as the new executive director of the Steger Center for International Scholarship in Riva San Vitale, Switzerland. In this role, she works to develop collaborative opportunities for global education programs, faculty workshops, community engagement, alumni reunions, and institutional networking at the center. Prior to taking on the executive director's position, Dr. Steinert Borella served as the vice president and dean of academic affairs at Franklin University Switzerland, a liberal arts university in the nearby Swiss city of Lugano. At Franklin, she was responsible for all undergraduate and graduate academic programs, including the curriculum and faculty. She also served as a professor of comparative literary and cultural studies. Her teaching and research have focused on a variety of topics ranging from food studies to women's travel writing. She is committed to global experiential education and believes that it can present transformational opportunities for students, faculty, and community members. One of her goals as the new executive director is to make study abroad accessible to more VT students across programs and across disciplines.

