



2016 VIRGINIA EDUCATION SUMMIT



Joint Meeting of the House Education and
Senate Education and Health Committees



Welcome to Lynchburg! We extend our sincere appreciation for allowing us to use your beautiful campuses for the 2016 Virginia Education Summit.



SOCIAL MEDIA



To give live updates on Twitter:

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 13, 2016	Central Virginia Community College	Merritt Hall
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Registration and Lunch	Room 5118
12:30 PM - 12:45 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Multipurpose Room
<p>Senator Steve Newman, Senate District 23, Chairman, Senate Education and Health Committee, Virginia Delegate Steve Landes, House District 25, Chairman, House of Delegates Education Committee, Virginia Dr. John Capps, President, Central Virginia Community College</p>		
12:45 PM - 1:45 PM	The Intersection of Education and Workforce Readiness	Multipurpose Room
<p><i>Labor demands are changing in Virginia and across the U.S. Speakers will discuss current trends in workforce demands and how schools, community colleges, universities, and employers are working to fill those needs across Virginia.</i></p> <p>Moderators: Delegate Kathy Byron, House District 22, Virginia Senator Frank Ruff, Senate District 15, Virginia</p> <p>Resource Experts: Neil Ridley, Director of the State Initiative, Center on Education and the Workforce, Georgetown University B.J. Burch, Vice President and General Manager, BWX Technologies</p>		
1:45 PM - 2:00 PM	Break	
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	ESSA 101	Multipurpose Room
<p><i>The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law in December 2015, shifting authority to make critical education policy decisions away from the federal government and back to the states. This session will provide an overview of the key provisions of the law and discuss implications and opportunities for Virginia.</i></p> <p>Introduction: Senator Janet Howell, Senate District 32, Virginia</p> <p>Moderator: Casey Wyant Remer, Director of Policy and Program, The Hunt Institute</p> <p>Resource Experts: Scott Palmer, Managing Partner and Co-Founder, EducationCounsel Joan Wodiska, Vice President, Virginia Board of Education</p>		
3:00 PM - 3:15 PM	Break/Transition	
3:15 PM - 4:15 PM	Breakouts	
<p><i>These smaller sessions will allow legislators to hear from practitioners and leaders from Virginia in a more intimate and informal setting.</i></p>		
BREAKOUT A	Early Childhood	Room 5145
<p>Moderator: Delegate Jennifer McClellan, House District 71, Virginia</p> <p>Kathy Glazer, President, Virginia Early Childhood Foundation Dr. Amanda Williford, Research Associate Professor, Curry School of Education, University of Virginia</p>		

BREAKOUT B

Digital Learning and Technology

Room 5146

Moderator: Delegate Richard “Dickie” Bell, House District 20, Virginia

Bruce Friend, Chief Operating Officer, International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL)

Michael Bolling, Executive Director, CodeRVA High School

BREAKOUT C

Low-Performing Schools/School Leadership

Room 5141

Moderator: Dr. Cynthia Cave, Assistant Superintendent, Virginia Department of Education

Delegate Daun Hester, House District 89, Virginia

Dr. Scott Brabrand, Superintendent, Lynchburg City Schools, Virginia

Daniel Rule, Principal, Dearington Elementary School, Lynchburg City Schools, Virginia

Dr. Marcus Newsome, Superintendent, Petersburg City Public Schools, Virginia

Jafar Baraka, Interim Principal, Peabody Middle School, Petersburg City Public Schools, Virginia

BREAKOUT D

School Choice

Room 5142

Moderator: Delegate Scott Lingamfelter, House District 31, Virginia

Kristen Larson, School Board Member, Richmond City Schools, Virginia

Russ Simnick, Senior Director of State Advocacy, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

Delegate Dave LaRock, House District 33, Virginia

4:15 PM - 4:30 PM

Break

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Voices from the Field

Room 5118

Join teacher/principal pairs from schools around Virginia for small group discussions about current education issues.

Moderator: Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, Executive Director and CEO, The Hunt Institute

Melissa Rickey, Principal, Binford Middle School, Richmond City Schools, Virginia

Jonathan Walker, Teacher and English Department Chair, Binford Middle School, Richmond City Schools, Virginia

Dr. Ryan Hitchman, Principal, Belmont Ridge Middle School, Loudoun County Public Schools, Virginia

Elizabeth Cox, Technology Resource Teacher, Belmont Ridge Middle School, Loudoun County Public Schools, Virginia

Laryssa Hairston-Penn, Principal, Stanleytown Elementary School, Henry County Public Schools, Virginia

Kimberly Draper, Teacher, Stanleytown Elementary School, Henry County Public Schools, Virginia

Scott Habeeb, Principal, Salem High School, Salem City Public Schools, Virginia

Mark Ingerson, Teacher, Salem High School, Salem City Public Schools, Virginia

Melissa Hankins, Assistant Principal, Albemarle High School, Albemarle County Public Schools, Virginia

Dr. Russell Carlock, Social Studies Teacher, Albemarle High School, Albemarle County Public Schools, Virginia

Travis Ridley, Principal, North Elementary School, Colonial Heights Public Schools, Virginia

Marde Mott, Support Services Specialist, Colonial Heights Public Schools, Virginia

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM **Teacher Simulator Experience** **Rooms 5145-5146**

Legislators will have the opportunity to experience a pilot program at the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education that provides teachers-in-training with instant feedback on classroom management. The simulator allows education students to test their skills as they attempt to teach a lesson with simulated students.

Introduction: Delegate Tag Greason, House District 32, Virginia

Facilitator: Dr. Stephanie van Hover, Chair, Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education, Curry School of Education, University of Virginia

6:00 PM - 6:30 PM **Reception** **Multipurpose Room**

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM **Dinner** **Multipurpose Room**

Welcome/Overview of Culinary Arts Program

Dr. John Capps, President, Central Virginia Community College
Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., Chairman, The Hunt Institute Foundation Board

A Conversation on Virginia's K-12 Education Priorities

Moderator: Senator Steve Newman, Chairman, Senate Education and Health Committee
Delegate Steven Landes, Chairman, House of Delegates Education Committee

Resource Experts: Dr. Steve Staples, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Virginia
Dr. Billy Cannaday, President, Virginia Board of Education
Dr. James Lane, Superintendent, Chesterfield County Public Schools, Virginia

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 14, 2016 **Liberty University** **Montview Student Union**

7:30 AM - 8:45 AM **Shuttle Service: Liberty Mountain Conference Center to Montview Student Union**

8:00 AM - 8:30 AM **Optional Briefing: Liberty University Online** **Terrace Lounge**

Pioneering distance education since 1985, Liberty University is now the nation's largest private, nonprofit online university. Liberty University Online offers a unique approach to online education. More than 95,000 students around the world enjoy the flexibility of online classes. Liberty University Online offers more than 245 distance-learning degrees from the certificate to the doctoral level.

Resource Experts: Dr. Steve Peterson, Vice President of Admissions, Liberty University Online
Dr. Ben Gutierrez, Vice Provost for Academic Administration, Liberty University

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM **Opening Remarks/Welcome Back** **Montview Alumni Ballroom**

Senator Steve Newman, Chairman, Senate Education and Health Committee
Delegate Steve Landes, Chairman, House of Delegates Education Committee
Jerry Falwell, Jr., President, Liberty University

9:00 AM - 9:30 AM **Student Demographic Trends** **Montview Alumni Ballroom**

Explore current and projected trends in Virginia’s student population and the implications for higher education in the Commonwealth.

Introduction: **Delegate Jimmie Massie**, House District 72, Virginia

Resource Experts: **Dr. Meredith Gunter**, Outreach Director, Demographics Research Group, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia
 Dr. Qian Cai, Director, Demographics Research Group, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM **Transformations Affecting Postsecondary Education** **Montview Alumni Ballroom**

As Virginia institutions strive to accommodate a changing student population and increase the number of students graduating with necessary workforce credentials, issues of access and affordability are more important than ever. This presentation will discuss innovations in higher education and the implications for state policy.

Moderator: **Senator Siobhan Dunnivant**, Senate District 12, Virginia

Resource Experts: **Dr. Courtney Brown**, Vice President of Strategic Impact, Lumina Foundation
 Peter Blake, Director, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

10:15 AM - 10:30 AM **Break**

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM **A Conversation on Virginia’s Higher Education Priorities** **Montview Alumni Ballroom**

A panel of higher education leaders will respond to the ideas in the previous presentations as well as discuss current work underway in Virginia.

Moderator: **Dr. Dietra Trent**, Secretary of Education, Virginia

Resource Experts: **Dr. Brian Hemphill**, President, Radford University
 Dr. Timothy Sands, President, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
 Dr. Kenneth Garren, President, Lynchburg College
 Dr. Scott Ralls, President, Northern Virginia Community College

11:30 AM - 11:45 AM **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, Executive Director and CEO, The Hunt Institute
Delegate Steve Landes, Chairman, House of Delegates Education Committee
Senator Steve Newman, Chairman, Senate Education and Health Committee

11:45 AM - 12:15 PM **Lunch** **Montview Alumni Ballroom**

12:15 PM - 1:00 PM **Optional Tour: Liberty University Library** **Liberty University Library**

The 170,000-square-foot library displays cutting-edge, interactive features, and is the focal point of academic life at Liberty University. Strategically located in the center of campus, the library supports teaching, learning, and research by providing information, resources, spaces, and related services for the Liberty University community.

SUMMIT CO-HOSTS



Senator Steve Newman

Senate District 23; Chairman, Senate Education and Health Committee, Virginia

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Steve Newman is the Virginia State Senator representing the 23rd District. During his tenure as senator, Newman authored the entirety of Governor Bob McDonnell's education package in the 2010 General Assembly, and served on the *Governor's Higher Education Reform Commission*. Senator Newman serves as chairman of the Transportation Committee, and is a member of the Education and Health, Commerce and Labor, Rules, and Finance committees. In 2010, he sponsored legislation that enacted the Virtual Schools Program, which provides online educational opportunities to children across Virginia by allowing local school boards to sign contracts with approved multi-division online providers of virtual school programs. Under this law, any student enrolled in an online course or virtual program offered by a local school division is considered enrolled in a public school. Senator Newman also authored a bill that requires school divisions to publish their annual budget, thereby increasing transparency and effectiveness within the Commonwealth's public school system. In 2016, Governor Terry McAuliffe appointed Senator Newman to the position of President Pro Tempore of the Virginia Senate.



Delegate R. Steven Landes

House District 25; Chairman, House of Delegates Education Committee, Virginia

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Delegate Steve Landes represents the 25th District in the Virginia House of Delegates. He is chairman of the House Education Committee, vice chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and a member of the Rules and Privileges and Elections committees. Delegate Landes also serves as a House Budget Conferee and is a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates, the Major Employment and Investment Projects Approval Commission, the Education Commission, and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.

Delegate Landes believes every child in Virginia, regardless of his or her zip code, deserves access to a high-quality education. As chairman of the Education Committee, he supports reforms to improve and reduce Virginia's Standard of Learning (SOL) tests and give schools more flexibility in the accreditation process. Earlier this year, the Virginia General Assembly passed *House Bill 1336*, first introduced by Delegate Landes in 2015, which requires colleges to develop a standardized system for granting credits to incoming students who have successfully completed AP courses.

SPECIAL GUEST



Governor James B. Hunt, Jr.

Chairman, The Hunt Institute Foundation Board

Governor of North Carolina (1977-1985, 1993-2001)

Recognized nationally as a leader in education, Governor Jim Hunt led his state through 20 years of dramatic economic change. Serving a historic four terms as governor, he has been at the forefront of education reform in North Carolina and in the nation. As governor, Hunt focused on early childhood development and improving the quality of teaching in America. His Smart Start program received the prestigious *Innovations in American Government Award* from the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Under his leadership, North Carolina public schools improved test scores more than any other state in the 1990s, according to the Rand Corporation. During the last 20 years, he has devoted much of his time to excellence in teaching in the United States. A strong supporter of high standards in public schools, Gov. Hunt put into place in North Carolina one of the nation's most rigorous approaches to measuring student performance, requiring mastery for promotion and graduation, and providing assistance to turn around failing schools.



Jafar N. Baraka

Interim Principal, Peabody Middle School; Coordinator for Discipline, Attendance and Truancy; Coordinator for Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports; Petersburg City Public Schools

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Jafar Baraka is the divisionwide coordinator for discipline, attendance and truancy for Petersburg City Public Schools (PCPS) and the school system's coordinator for positive behavioral interventions and supports. Currently, he is also serving as Peabody Middle School's Interim Principal. Before joining PCPS, Baraka was principal of Huguenot High School in Richmond Public Schools where he was credited with across-the-board improvements, including receiving full accreditation in 2015-16, double-digit increases in academic achievement, and increases in its graduation rate.



Delegate Richard "Dickie" Bell

House District 20, Virginia

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Dickie Bell has been a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 20th District, since 2010. He is a retired high school special education teacher, and served in the U.S. Navy Hospital Corp from 1967 to 1973. Bell currently serves on the Education, General Laws, and Health, Welfare, and Institutions committees.



Peter A. Blake

Director, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

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Peter Blake joined The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) as interim director in 2011 and became director in 2012. Blake previously worked at SCHEV as an associate director, overseeing higher education analyses in the areas of faculty and staff compensation, higher education funding policies, academic libraries, distance learning and instructional technology, and student financial aid.



Michael Bolling

Executive Director, CodeRVA High School

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Michael Bolling is executive director of CodeRVA, a regional high school in central Virginia focused on preparing students for careers in computer coding and college. Prior to joining CodeRVA, Bolling served as the director of the Office of Mathematics and Governor's Schools, as an instructional supervisor in Chesterfield and Powhatan Counties, Virginia, and as a high school mathematics teacher at Atlee High School in Hanover County, Virginia.



Scott S. Brabrand, Ph.D.

Superintendent, Lynchburg City Schools

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Scott Brabrand is currently in his 4th year as superintendent of the Lynchburg City Schools in Lynchburg, Virginia. During Dr. Brabrand's tenure in Lynchburg, he created a modified calendar for the school division, which incorporates two weeks of targeted intersessions for students, along with more teacher professional development time. He works with students, teachers, parents, and community members to achieve the school's mission of "Every Child, By Name and By Need, to Graduation."



Courtney Brown, Ph.D.
Vice President of Strategic Impact, Lumina Foundation
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Courtney Brown is vice president of strategic impact at Lumina Foundation, the nation's largest private foundation focused specifically on increasing Americans' postsecondary success. In this role, she oversees the Foundation's efforts in the areas of strategic planning, impact, and learning. Dr. Brown works to ensure Lumina uses data and research to inform and continuously apply lessons to work across the Foundation, and stays focused on the impact of its "Goal 2025" efforts.



B.J. (Joel) Burch
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B.J. Burch is the vice president and general manager of BWX Technologies, Inc. in Lynchburg, Virginia, where he oversees the operations of more than 2,200 employees. Under his direction, the Lynchburg site principally manufactures naval nuclear reactors for submarines and aircraft carriers, and also provides reactor fuel to several U.S. research facilities.



Delegate Kathy J. Byron
House District 22, Virginia
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Delegate Kathy Byron has been a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 22nd legislative district, since 1997. She serves as vice chair of the House Commerce and Labor Committee and is a member of the Finance Committee and House Science and Technology Committee. Byron also serves on various boards and organizations, including the Virginia Workforce Development Board, Unemployment Compensation Commission, American Legislative Exchange Council, and Joint Commission On Science and Technology.



Qian Cai, Ph.D.
Director, Demographics Research Group, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia
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Qian Cai (pronounced "chien tsai") is director of the Demographics Research Group at the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. In this role, she oversees the group's data production and research, ensures top quality publications and client service, and maintains an ambitious agenda for improving population data for Virginia and the nation.



Billy K. Cannaday, Ph.D.
President, Virginia Board of Education
James Monroe Bldg., 101 N. 14th St., Richmond, VA 23219

Billy Cannaday was first appointed to the Virginia Board of Education in 2009 and was elected by the Board to serve as its president in 2015. Dr. Cannaday is also dean of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies at the University of Virginia (UVA). Prior to joining UVA, he served as Virginia's Superintendent of Public Instruction from 2006-2008.



John Capps, Ph.D.
President, Central Virginia Community College
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John Capps is the 7th president of Central Virginia Community College. He has 33 years of higher education experience, including service as an interim president, vice president, dean, program head, and professor of English. Some of his accomplishments include working to establish the Lynchburg City Schools Early College Program, the Great Expectations Program for foster youth, and the Lynchburg Regional Governor's STEM Academy.



Russell H. Carlock, Jr., Ed.D.
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Russell Carlock, Jr. teaches U.S. history at Albemarle High School in Charlottesville, Virginia. In this role, he has coordinated the English as Second or Other Language (ESOL) and World Languages programs for Albemarle County Public Schools and helped to develop the Spanish and French immersion and Foreign Language in the Elementary School (FLES) programs in three county elementary schools.



Cynthia A. Cave, Ph.D.
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Cynthia Cave is assistant superintendent of the division of Policy and Communications for the Virginia Department of Education. Her former positions include director of student services in the Division of Special Education and Student Services. Dr. Cave also held the positions of director of policy and director of communication and public relations in the Policy and Communications Division.



Elizabeth Cox
Technology Resource Teacher, Belmont Ridge Middle School, Loudoun County Public Schools
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Elizabeth Cox has been serving as the technology resource teacher at Belmont Ridge Middle School in Loudoun County, Virginia, since 2005. She focuses on student-centered learning through personalized and problem-based instruction with technology integration, in order to help other teachers learn to integrate 21st-century learning into their classrooms.



Kimberly Draper
Teacher, Stanleytown Elementary, Henry County Public Schools
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Kimberly Draper is a first-grade teacher at Stanleytown Elementary in Henry County, Virginia. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and the recipient of the 2017 *Teacher of the Year Award* for Henry County Public Schools.



Senator Siobhan Dunnivant, M.D.
Senate District 12, Virginia
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Siobhan (pronounced “shah-VON”) Dunnivant is in her first term representing District 12 in the Virginia State Senate, and she serves on the Education and Health, Finance, and Local Government committees. Dr. Dunnivant is also an OB-GYN, who has delivered more than 2,000 babies in her 16 years of private practice. She worked with her hospital system to launch “Patriot Babies,” a program that allows deployed military fathers to be present via video link during the birth of their children.



Jerry Falwell, Jr.
President, Liberty University
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Jerry Falwell, Jr. became president of Liberty University in May 2007, just after the passing of his father, Liberty’s founder, Rev. Jerry Falwell. His goal for the university is to fulfill the original vision to provide a world-class educational experience that will train champions for Christ, who are fully equipped for successful careers in every profession.



Bruce Friend
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Bruce Friend is a former secondary school teacher and administrator, who currently serves as the chief operating officer for the International Association for K-12 Online Learning. He has also been assigned to the K-12 education committee of the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development in Paris, France. Friend serves on the advisory boards for several school organizations.



Kenneth R. Garren, Ph.D.
President, Lynchburg College
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Kenneth Garren is in his 15th year as president of Lynchburg College. He is the recipient of numerous distinguished awards, including the Piedmont Chapter of the Military Order of World Wars *Silver Patrick Henry Medallion for Patriotic Achievement* (2008), the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities *Humanitarian of the Year* award (2010), the *George Taylor Stewart III Award* by the Lynchburg Chamber of Commerce (2012), the Mayor of Lynchburg’s *Excellence Award* (2014), and the *Roanoke College Medal* (2014) in recognition of outstanding service to college and community.



Kathy Glazer
President, Virginia Early Childhood Foundation
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Kathy Glazer is president of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation. Under her leadership, the Foundation promotes innovative initiatives and research-driven analysis to ensure that Virginia’s children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to succeed. Glazer’s previous experience includes working with the national *BUILD Initiative*, where she provided strategic advice on early childhood policy and public-private systems-building. She has also served as the director of the Office of Early Childhood Development in the Virginia state government.



Delegate Tag Greason

House District 32, Virginia

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Tag Greason is a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 32nd District, which includes parts of Loudoun County. Greason is also an active member of the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce. He appeared on the *Washingtonian* magazine list of “Tech Titans” in 2013 for his work in helping Loudoun County’s and Virginia’s growing technology sector.



Meredith Strohm Gunter, Ph.D.

Outreach Director, Demographics Research Group, Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia

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Meredith Gunter represents the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia as outreach director for the Demographics Research Group. Dr. Gunter’s career experience includes senior administrative posts at three institutions of higher education in Virginia, policy and special initiative development for the Governor’s Office, international services and support for a major Virginia law firm, and a number of freelance writing, editing, and planning projects for private clients.



Ben Gutierrez, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academic Administration, Liberty University

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As vice provost for academic administration at Liberty University Online, Ben Gutierrez is responsible for reviewing and recommending organizational structures and appointing personnel to manage and execute the functions of academic programs. He serves as a liaison between selected academic units and the office of the provost, reviewing requests related to budgets, hiring, program creation, and operations from within those units.



Scott Habeeb

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Scott Habeeb is serving his 4th year as principal at Salem High School in Salem, Virginia. Prior to becoming principal, Habeeb was the assistant principal for curriculum and instruction at Salem High School where he oversaw the school’s Freshman Transition Program, its dual enrollment relationship with Virginia Western Community College, and created the school’s master schedule. Habeeb is also the author and co-author of several articles, including *The Ninth Grade Opportunity: Transforming Schools from the Bottom Up*.



Laryssa Hairston-Penn

Principal, Stanleytown Elementary School, Henry County Public Schools

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Laryssa Hairston-Penn has served as principal at Stanleytown Elementary School in Henry County, Virginia, since 2006. Previously, she worked as a classroom teacher and an assistant principal. Her efforts with students of all abilities has served as a model for others in supporting student growth and success.



Melissa Hankins

Assistant Principal, Albemarle High School, Albemarle County Public Schools

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Melissa Hankins is an assistant principal at Albemarle High School in Charlottesville, Virginia. During her 20-year tenure at Albemarle High School, she taught history and social studies, and served as the department chair and school testing coordinator.



Brian O. Hemphill, Ph.D.

President, Radford University

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Brian Hemphill is the 7th president of Radford University, where he currently seeks to realize his vision of transforming the university into an innovative, premier institution of higher education with a keen focus on teaching, research and service. Dr. Hemphill is actively involved in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), including the Committee on Policies and Purpose, and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU). He recently co-edited *College in the Crosshairs: An Administrative Perspective on Prevention of Gun Violence*.



Delegate Daun S. Hester

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Daun Hester is a member of the Virginia General Assembly, representing the 89th District. Previously, she served on the Norfolk City Council from 1996 to 2010, and was vice mayor of Norfolk from 2004 to 2008. Hester is a member of the National League of Cities, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Crispus Attucks Cultural Center Board of Directors. She also serves as co-chair of Black Women for Positive Change.



Ryan P. Hitchman, Ed.D.

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Ryan Hitchman is in his 5th year as principal at Belmont Ridge Middle School in Loudoun County, Virginia. Previously, Dr. Hitchman served as the principal of Christiansburg Middle School in Montgomery County, Virginia, and worked as a high school assistant principal and high school social studies teacher.



Senator Janet Howell
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Janet Howell has been a Virginia State Senator, representing the 32nd District, since 1992. Prior to running for office, she taught in the Philadelphia school district and was a legislative assistant in the Virginia State Senate. Howell was the first woman to serve on the Senate Finance Committee. She currently serves on the Courts of Justice, Education and Health, Privileges, and Elections and Rules committees, and she is a Senate budget conferee.



Mark Ingerson
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Mark Ingerson is an Air Force and Air National Guard veteran who is currently in his 17th year as a history teacher at Salem High School in Salem, Virginia. He has served on the advisory board for Teacher Education and Licensure for the Virginia Department of Education and is the recipient of multiple educator awards, including the *Milken National Educator Award* and the *Region VI State Teacher of the Year Award*.



James F. Lane, Ed.D.
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James Lane is superintendent of Chesterfield County Public Schools, and previously, the superintendent of Goochland County Public Schools. Dr. Lane has been recognized by the White House for his innovative instructional programs and is the recipient of numerous accolades, including *Virginia's Superintendent of the Year* (2016), *Style Weekly's Top 40 Under 40* in the Richmond Region (2014), and the Richmond Technology Council's *Education Innovator of the Year* (2016).



Delegate Dave LaRock
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Dave LaRock is a member of the Virginia House of Delegates for the 33rd District and the owner of a construction company. In the House of Delegates, LaRock serves on the Transportation, Courts of Justice, and Science and Technology committees. He also serves on two interim study commissions, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and the Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS).



Kristen Nye Larson
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Kristen Larson is the co-chair of the Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Facilities Committee and the RPS board liaison to the Greater Richmond Chamber. She also serves on the city's Early Childhood Action Team. Larson was named on *Style Weekly's Power List* in 2014, and she was recognized by *Style* as a Top 40 under 40 in 2012.



Delegate Scott Lingamfelter

House District 31, Virginia

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A retired colonel in the United States Army, Scott Lingamfelter has been a member of the House of Delegates since 2002. He serves on the House Appropriations and Education committees, and he is chairman of the Militia, Police and Public Safety Committee. He is also on the Chesapeake Bay Commission and co-chairman of the Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus.



Delegate Jimmie Massie

House District 72, Virginia

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Jimmie Massie was first elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 2007, and currently serves on three committees – Appropriations, Education, and Rules. He is also an entrepreneur and small businessman with a career in marketing, finance, and investment banking. Massie has served as the treasurer of the board of directors of the Family Foundation of Virginia, and a board member of the University of Virginia's College of Arts and Sciences Benefactors Society.



Delegate Jennifer McClellan, J.D.

House District 71, Virginia

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Jennifer McClellan is a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 71st District, where she serves on the House Commerce and Labor, Courts of Justice, and Education committees. Some of her additional leadership roles include serving as chair of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, co-chair of the Capital Region Caucus, and co-chair of the Fire/EMS Caucus. In 2014, Governor Terry McAuliffe appointed McClellan to the Legislative Advisory Council of the Southern Regional Education Board.



Marde Mott

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Marde Mott is the support services specialist for Colonial Heights City Public Schools in Colonial Heights, Virginia. Mott has worked at all levels of education as a clinical instructor for Kansas State University and the University of Illinois, as well as a speech-language pathologist in the public school setting. She has also taught American students in South Korea and Germany with the Department of Defense Dependents School system.



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Marcus Newsome serves as superintendent of Petersburg City Public Schools in Petersburg, Virginia. Previously, he served in Chesterfield County Public Schools as one of the longest tenured superintendents of the nation's 100 largest districts. Dr. Chesterfield has enjoyed a national reputation for high-performing, award-winning schools, where test scores and graduation rates reached all-time highs.



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As managing partner at EducationCounsel, Scott Palmer provides policy, legal, strategic planning, and advocacy services to education leaders across the country, including state/national policy counsel and federal advocacy before the White House, U.S. Department of Education, and Congress. Palmer previously served as deputy assistant secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education and attorney and policy advisor in the Clinton White House, where he worked on the *President's Race Initiative* on education and civil rights issues.



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Steve Peterson is the vice president of admissions for Liberty University Online, which pioneered distance education in the 1980s and now offers 250 programs and concentrations online, from the certificate to the doctoral level. During his tenure, Dr. Peterson has worked in financial aid, on the chancellor's staff, and has served as the executive director for university advancement.



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Scott Ralls is the 5th president of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), and he currently serves as the co-chair for the Policy Leadership Trust for Student Success, a national effort sponsored by Jobs for the Future and funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to advance state policy improvements that promote program completion for community college students. Dr. Ralls previously served as president of the North Carolina Community College System, president of Craven Community College, and vice president of economic and workforce development for The University of North Carolina.



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Casey Remer is the director of policy and program at The Hunt Institute. In this role, she leads the Institute's policy efforts, manages the development of curriculum and materials for the Institute's signature policymaker convenings and the *Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows* program, and serves as the editor of the Institute's publications. Most recently, Remer served as the deputy director of the *Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows* where she oversaw curriculum and program development. She began her career teaching high school English in Halifax, North Carolina as a Teach For America corps member and later worked with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction and the Center for Child and Family Policy at Duke University.



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Melissa Rickey serves as the principal of Binford Middle School in Richmond, Virginia. Rickey has been in public education for 11 years, and her previous experience includes serving as an assistant principal at James River High School in Chesterfield County, Virginia, and teaching graphic design, crafts, and photography at Robious Middle School, also in Chesterfield County, Virginia.



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Neil Ridley is director of the state initiative at the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, where he leads the Center's efforts to help states integrate education and workforce data systems for policy, program planning and development, evaluation, and improved feedback between labor markets and education. Before joining the Center, Ridley was interim co-director and senior policy analyst with the postsecondary education and workforce team at the Center for Law and Social Policy.



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Travis Ridley has been the principal of North Elementary School in Colonial Heights, Virginia, since 2011. Prior to this role, he began his career at Colonial Heights High School where he served as a marketing teacher, the career and technical educational director, and assistant principal. He is a proud member of the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals.



Senator Frank Ruff
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Frank Ruff served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1994-2000 and was elected to the Senate of Virginia in 2000, where he represents the 15th District. He is a member of the Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, Education and Health, General Laws and Technology, and Local Government committees.



Daniel J. Rule
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Daniel Rule is the principal of Dearington Elementary School for Innovation (DESI), Lynchburg City Schools. Under his leadership, DESI has been removed from the list of schools ranked among the lowest five percent in Virginia. He has led his staff in the design and implementation of improvement plans, which have resulted in double digit increases in math, English language arts, Virginia studies, and science.



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Timothy Sands is the 16th president of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. His vision for Virginia Tech embraces the university's heritage of service and community as well as its motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve). Before coming to Virginia Tech, Dr. Sands served as executive vice president for academic affairs and provost of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.



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Former Virginia Secretary of Education Javaid Siddiqi is the new executive director and CEO of The Hunt Institute. Most recently, he served as the director of the *Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows*, which partners with senior-level political leaders who have the knowledge, skill, and will to be effective, reform-minded education policymakers at the state level. Dr. Siddiqi began his career as a high school teacher, assistant principal, and as a principal in Chesterfield, Virginia, where he led the implementation of *Expeditionary Learning* – a nationally recognized school reform model. As secretary of education in Gov. Bob McDonnell's Cabinet, he assisted in the development and implementation of the Commonwealth's education policy; and provided guidance to 16 public universities, the Virginia Community College System, five higher education and research centers, the Department of Education, and the state-supported museums.



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Russ Simnick is senior director of state advocacy and services for the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. He joined the National Alliance after serving for nearly five years as president of the Indiana Public Charter Schools Association (IPCSA). As lead executive, he was responsible for the overall organization, achievement of goals in the areas of advocacy, public awareness and support, governance, and organizational sustainability on behalf of the state charter movement.



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Steven Staples was appointed Virginia's 24th superintendent of public instruction by Governor Terry McAuliffe. As superintendent, he serves as the executive officer of the Virginia Department of Education, which is the administrative agency for the Commonwealth's public schools. Previously, Dr. Staples served as principal at Hopewell High School, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction in Montgomery County, and division superintendent in York County for 16 years, all respectively in Virginia.



Dietra Trent, Ph.D.
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Dietra Trent was appointed secretary of education by Governor Terry McAuliffe in 2016. She had previously served as deputy secretary of education, deputy secretary of education in Governor Tim Kaine's administration, and director of constituent services and director of the Council on Human Rights under Governor Mark Warner.



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As an associate professor at the University of Virginia, Amanda Williford conducts research to explore how young children best develop school readiness skills, with special emphasis on the development of social-emotional skills. Her primary research focus is on developing and evaluating classroom-based interventions for young children who display disruptive behavior problems and/or deficits in behavioral and emotional self-regulation.



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Joan Wodiska serves as the vice president of the Board of Education in the Virginia Department of Education. Wodiska has more than 20 years of experience working on federal, state, and local P-16 education and workforce policies, including nearly a decade at the National Governors Association. She was also the vice chair of the Governor's Task Force on Local Mandates, chair of the Education Subcommittee, and president of the Virginia School Boards Association. Wodiska is the founder of Pioneer Management Consulting.



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