

Day One: Thursday, October 27, 2022

Site Visit & Breakfast | McHarg Elementary School, 700 12th Street, Radford, VA

8:15 – 10:30 AM **Optional Site Visit & Breakfast | McHarg Elementary, Radford City Schools**

Day One Programming | Kyle Banquet Hall, Radford University, Radford, VA

11:00 – 11:45 AM **Registration & Optional Lunch**

11:45 AM – 12:00 PM **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

- **Dr. Bret Danilowicz**, President, Radford University
- **Dr. Javaid Siddiqi**, President and CEO, The Hunt Institute
- **The Honorable L. Louise Lucas**, District 18, Senate of Virginia | Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellow Cohort Seven
- **The Honorable Glenn Davis**, District 84, Virginia House of Delegates

12:00 – 1:00 PM

The Importance of Early Childhood Investment

Decades of research demonstrate the value of high-quality early education experiences for young children, yet they remain out of reach for many Virginia families with children under six. This session will uplift both the science of early development and states' efforts to translate it into thoughtful public policy.

Opening Remarks:

- **The Honorable Mamie Locke**, Senate District Two, Senate of Virginia | Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows Cohort Five

Moderator:

- **Dr. Lauren Zbyszinski**, Deputy Director for Early Learning Programs, The Hunt Institute

Resource Experts:

- **The Honorable Kirsten Baesler**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, North Dakota | Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellow Cohort Six
- **Dr. Barbara Cooper**, Secretary, Alabama Department of Early Childhood

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Educator Diversity | Leveraging Data for a Diverse Educator Workforce

The need for a diverse, high-quality, professionally satisfied educator workforce is clear. However, the question remains: who exactly do we need in the classroom to meet these goals? Reliable data on the exact nature of the current, past, and prospective educator workforce can shine a light on existing gaps in the teacher landscape and help to identify solutions for strengthening a diverse, high-quality educator pipeline for the Commonwealth. This session will dive into what data are needed to gain a better

understanding of the educator landscape and how the Commonwealth can support a high-quality data system.

Opening Remarks:

- **The Honorable Jennifer McClellan**, Senate District Nine, Virginia State Senate | Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows Cohort Four

Moderator:

- **Anthony Graham**, Ph.D., Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Winston Salem State University

Resource Experts:

- **Verletta White**, Superintendent, Roanoke City Schools
- **Mark Teoh, Ed.D.**, Vice President of Learning, Research and Impact, Teach+

2:00 – 2:10 PM

Break

2:10 – 3:05 PM

Ready to Read | Embedding Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction Across the Continuum

In 2022, the General Assembly passed the Virginia Literacy Act, which grounds literacy instruction in science-based reading research. As the state sharpens its focus on building strong readers, educators must be prepared to utilize evidence-based literacy instruction. This session will discuss the ways in which evidence-based instruction is currently embedded in educator preparation programs and K12 classrooms, and how to ensure quality implementation of last year's bill.

Opening Remarks:

- **The Honorable Carrie Coyner**, District 62, Virginia House of Delegates

Moderator:

- **Kelly Butler**, Chief Executive Officer, Barksdale Reading Institute

Resource Experts:

- **Dr. Kymyona Burk**, Senior Policy Fellow, ExcelinEd
- **Dr. Emily Solari**, Edmund H. Henderson Professor of Education, School of Education & Human Development, University of Virginia

3:05 – 4:00 PM

Policy Discussion | Creating a Culture of Innovation

Virginia's biennial budget includes \$100 million in funding for lab schools in Virginia to provide more opportunities for high school students to learn specific career fields including STEM, CTE, and coding. This session will explore how to move forward when it comes to creating, implementing, and sustaining these innovative models, and consider next steps for Virginia's leaders as they work to allocate this funding.

Opening Remarks:

- **The Honorable Glenn Davis**, District 84, Virginia House of Delegates

Moderator:

- **Michael Weinberg**, Education Policy Officer, Thornburg Foundation

Resource Experts:

- **Dr. Kim McKnight**, Director, Center for Teacher Leadership, Virginia Commonwealth University School of Education
- **Dr. Kume Goranson**, Executive Director, CodeRVA Regional High School

4:00 – 4:15 PM **Break**

4:15 – 5:00 PM **Professional Perspectives | The Challenge of Maintaining School Innovation**

As difficult as the last two years have been, COVID-19 forced the education sector to innovate to ensure students continue receiving a high-quality education. In this conversation, legislators will join small groups with superintendents from across Virginia to discuss how to support and maintain innovation in the upcoming school year.

Opening remarks:

- **The Honorable Schuyler VanValkenburg**, House District 72, Virginia House of Delegates

Moderator:

- **Julia Cunningham**, Deputy Director of State Engagement, The Hunt Institute

Resource Experts:

- **Dr. Kristy Somerville-Midgette**, Superintendent, Brunswick County Schools
- **Darlene Brown**, Dean of Students, Totaro Elementary, Brunswick County Schools
- **Dr. Gina Wohlford**, Superintendent, Norton City Schools
- **Scott Addison**, Principal, Norton Elementary and Middle School, Norton City Schools
- **Dr. Ken Nicely**, Superintendent, Roanoke County Public Schools
- **Kim Bradshaw**, Principal, Green Valley Elementary, Roanoke County Public Schools
- **Dr. Sarah Calveric**, Superintendent, Caroline County Public Schools
- **Dr. Herbert Monroe**, Assistant Superintendent, Caroline County Public Schools

5:00 – 6:30 PM **Transition to Reception**

Dinner Venue | Center in the Square, 1 Market Square SE, Roanoke, VA

6:30 – 9:00 PM **Reception, Dinner, and Fireside Chat | The Importance of Internships in a Future of Higher Ed Uncertainty**

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant disruptions and challenges for postsecondary institutions, most notably in the arena of technology. Changes to curriculum delivery, coupled with financial challenges, have left institutions seeking a sustainable, relevant future. Virginia has worked to prioritize internships, particularly through the *Virginia Talent + Opportunity Partnership*. This session will discuss the priorities of VTOP, how it supports students, schools, and employers in a changing higher ed landscape, and what needs to be done to move VTOP's work forward effectively in the future.

Opening Remarks:

- **The Honorable Siobhan Dunnavant**, Senate District 12, Virginia Senate

Moderator:

- **Delbert Parks**, Vice President, Frontend Manufacturing Operations, Micron Technology

Resource Experts:

- **Dr. Donna Price Henry**, Chancellor, UVA Wise
- **The Honorable Kirk Cox**, President, Virginia Business Higher Education Council
- **Valerie Keating**, Director, K12, State & District Partnerships, The College Board

- *6:30 – 7:00 pm: Reception*
- *7:00 – 8:15 pm: Dinner & Fireside Chat*
- *8:15 – 9:00 pm: Wrap up & Post-Dinner Reception*
- *9:00 pm: Close and head back to hotel*

Day Two: Friday, October 28, 2022

Day Two Programming | Hotel Roanoke, 110 Shenandoah Ave NE, Roanoke, VA

8:00 – 9:00 AM **Breakfast**

9:00 – 9:30 AM **Welcome & Guided Reflection**

9:30 – 10:25 AM **Assessment and Accountability | Using Evidence-Based Interventions to Get Students on Track to Succeed**

COVID-19 suspended 2020 student assessments and pushed states to reevaluate how they measure student progress. COVID-19's impact on student learning has been severe, with students losing several months of learning since its onset, as

well as exacerbating present achievement gaps. In this session, resource experts will discuss current assessment systems, the achievement gaps that exist in the K-12 continuum, and how to ensure equitable learning recovery.

Moderator:

- **Nadja Young**, Director, Education & Civilian Federal Government, US Public Sector, SAS

Resource Experts:

- **Rashard Wright**, Chief of Staff, Newport News Public Schools

10:25 – 10:35 AM

Break

10:35 – 11:30 AM

Balancing Free Speech: Academic Civility and Inclusivity

The debate over free speech on college campuses is not new to higher education. With the protections afforded by the First Amendment, college campuses have served as a beacon of intellectual discourse throughout the history of our nation. However, with increasing vitriol and political polarization, college campuses have also been the site of hate speech and intolerance. This discussion will focus on balancing the right to free speech with the ideal of open intellectual debate on which higher education was founded.

Opening Remarks:

- **The Honorable Ghazala Hashmi**, Senate District 10, Senate of Virginia

Moderator:

- **Farnaz Farkish Thompson**, Partner, McGuireWoods

Resource Experts:

- **The Honorable Jim Douglas**, Governor of Vermont | 2003-2011; Board of Directors, The Hunt Institute
- **Dr. Irma Becerra-Fernandez**, President, Marymount University
- **Adria Merritt**, Director for Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion Pathways, Virginia Department of Education

11:30 – 11:40 PM

Break

11:40 AM – 12:35 PM

Postsecondary Funding | Linking State Higher Education Goals with Postsecondary Funding Opportunities

Affordability has long been a concern of many students seeking their post-secondary degrees. The average price of tuition for a higher education institution has doubled since the 1980s, and with those prices continuing to rise in most states, a postsecondary degree is becoming less affordable. In this session, resource experts will discuss how to best target funding to develop a more

affordable postsecondary landscape across the Commonwealth that supports all postsecondary pathways.

Opening Remarks:

- **Secretary Laura Worley Novey**, Senior Vice President, State Government Relations, McGuireWoods Consulting; Board of Directors, The Hunt Institute

Moderator:

- **Secretary Peter Blake**, Executive Director, State Council of Higher Education in Virginia

Resource Experts:

- **Dr. Sharon Morrissey**, Chancellor, Virginia Community College System
- **Dr. Makola M. Abdullah**, President, Virginia State University

12:35 PM – 12:45 PM

Closing Remarks

- **The Honorable Glenn Davis**, District 84, Virginia House of Delegates
- **The Honorable L. Louise Lucas**, District 18, Senate of Virginia

12:45 PM

Optional Lunch

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