NEW Leadership Virginia Co-Directors

Dr. Bonnie Stabile

Bonnie Stabile is an associate professor and associate dean of student and academic affairs in the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. She teaches courses on policy analysis, program evaluation, ethics, and gender in the Schar School's master's programs in public policy, public administration, and biodefense. She is founder and director of the Gender and Policy Center at the Schar School. Her recent research projects and publications include articles in *Public Integrity* and the *Journal of Public Affairs Education* considering the role of women as MPA directors; the implications of women's choice of concentrations in MPA programs; the implication of fake news for women in politics; and diversity and inclusion in emergency management and first response. Her book, *Women, Power and Rape Culture: The Politics and Policy of Underrepresentation*, with coauthor Aubrey Grant, was published in 2022.

Stabile served as editor-in-chief of *World Medical & Health Policy* from 2019 to 2020, after having served as co-editor for eight years. Her federal government work experience includes acting as installation coordinator of a U.S. Army post in Amberg, Germany, and as a program analyst for the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. From 1989 to 1993, she was program coordinator of the Senior Managers in Government Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.
Jill Deering

Jill Deering is the senior assistant dean of student and academic affairs at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University, bringing two decades of leadership experience to the mission of higher education. Currently, she manages the undergraduate and graduate academic services and career development teams in the Schar School. She is experienced in leading programs and services to recruit and retain students and foster student academic and professional achievement.

After working in the federal government, Jill launched her higher education career at Dickinson College directing freshman transition programs. She moved to George Mason University in 2003 to focus her work on students who share her passion for public affairs and public service. Jill earned her Bachelor of Arts in government and politics from George Mason University and her Master of Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is a graduate of the Leadership Arlington program.

NEW Leadership Virginia Faculty-in-Residence

Delegate Charniele Herring

Charniele Herring was elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 2009 and chosen as Majority Leader of the House of Delegates in 2020. She was the first woman and the first African American to serve as Majority Leader of the House of Delegates and as Chair of Courts of Justice. Delegate Herring also previously served as Chair of the Virginia State Crime Commission and on the Committee on District Courts. She currently serves as Chair of the House Democratic Caucus.

Born into a military family, Charniele moved often as a child before landing permanently in Northern Virginia. She and her mother became homeless while Charniele was a teenager and stayed in a shelter while attending West Springfield High School during the day and her mother searched for work. The experience of being homeless shaped Charniele’s character and taught her the values of hard work, resilience and looking out for those people society often overlooks. Thanks to the STEP Program that allows students from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to prove they are capable of college level work, Charniele was able to attend
George Mason University, where she earned a degree in Economics. She later earned a JD from Catholic University’s Columbus School of Law. After law school, Charniele worked at the oldest African-American owned firm in Greater Washington before opening up her own firm in Northern Virginia. She currently works as General Counsel to Admin and Logistics, Inc, a government contracting firm.

Building upon a rich history of community service, Charniele has brought her strong leadership and ability to work in a bipartisan manner to the General Assembly. She patroned legislation to give small businesses a competitive advantage in the state’s procurement process and is a longstanding champion for education, receiving numerous awards from the Virginia Education Association. Herring also sponsored a bill establishing the first-ever sexual and domestic violence prevention fund in Virginia, for which she was honored with the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance’s HOPE Award.

**Shea Holman**

Shea Holman is counsel and chief operating officer at the Purple Method, an organization dedicated to addressing and preventing workplace sexual misconduct. Shea is also an adjunct professor of legal studies at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University, where she teaches judicial process and civil rights law. She is a board member for the Gender and Policy Center and an editorial board member of the Berkeley Center on Comparative Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law blog.

Previously, Shea served as the executive director of the Purple Campaign, where she oversaw various advocacy efforts to make workplace harassment a priority on the legislative agenda in the corporate sector and in the courts. She also served as the policy director at the Purple Method, working on the development and deployment of custom anti-harassment training.

Shea received her law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School where she earned Concentration Honors in Labor and Employment Law and was the president of the Women’s Law Student Association. Her prior work experience also includes the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Minnesota Conflict Resolution Center. She has experience representing employees in both the private and government sectors and has worked as a training consultant for Bright Compass, an HR consulting firm.
Bonita Pennino

Following a 21-year career with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Pennino retired and founded Pennino Public Affairs, a consulting firm specializing in systems advocacy. During her tenure with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Pennino held positions as public education manager for the Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, coordinator for Cancer Prevention Study II LifeLink Research Project, and cancer control specialist.

In her final position as a government relations director at the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, she counts as some of her major accomplishments passing legislation in Maryland prohibiting smoking in all places of public accommodation, capping prescription drug out-of-pocket cost at $150 per month per prescription in Maryland and D.C., and raising the per pack tobacco tax to $2 in Maryland and to $4.94 in the D.C.

From 1990 to 1995, Pennino worked for the Department for Rights of Individuals with Disabilities, where she served as Administrative Liaison to the Virginia General Assembly, state agencies, state policy boards, and consumer groups. From 1987 to 1990, Pennino worked for the Virginia State Department of Education. Pennino earned her master’s degree in counseling from the Medical College of Virginia and her undergraduate degree from Virginia Commonwealth University.
Monday, June 10, 2024

11-12 pm: Leadership Presentation and Small Group Discussion

Anne Holton

Anne Holton is a professor in the School of Policy and Government and in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University. She is also a Senior Fellow at EdPolicyForward, the Center for Education Policy, at George Mason University. She is a lifelong advocate for children and families in Virginia.

With a Bachelor of Arts from Princeton and a Harvard law degree, Holton has worked as a legal aid lawyer serving low-income families, a juvenile and domestic relations district court judge, a child welfare reformer, and Virginia’s Secretary of Education.

She helped integrate the inner-city schools of Richmond as a child when her father was Virginia's governor in the early 1970s. As Virginia’s First Lady when her husband was governor from 2006 to 2010, Holton championed foster care system reform. As Virginia’s Secretary of Education from 2014 to 2016, she worked to increase Virginia’s investment in public education, to promote innovation and the joy of teaching and learning in our schools, and to ensure every student has a successful pathway to the future, especially those in high-poverty communities.

Her life’s work has focused on children and families at the margin, and the crucial role education must play in helping young people escape poverty. Holton served as Interim President of George Mason University from 2019 to 2020 and currently serves on the Virginia Board of Education.
**1-3 pm: Action Project Issue: Data Center Sitting Background**

**Juli Bolthouse**

Juli Bolthouse is the Director of Land Use with Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), a locally based, donor supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit and an accredited land trust. She manages local field staff who work in the environmental non-profit's nine county region that includes Clarke, Loudoun, Rappahannock, Fauquier, Culpeper, Orange, Madison, Greene, and Albemarle counties in Virginia.

As the Director of Land Use, Julie coordinates the organization's advocacy on state and local policies to promote smart growth and climate action while conserving and preserving the natural resources, local food system, history, and beauty of the Virginia Piedmont. A professional advocate for sustainability through thoughtful land use decisions, Julie has been with PEC for 13 years and holds a B.S. in Fisheries Science with a minor in Watershed Management, a master's degree in urban and regional planning, and a second master’s degree in natural resources all from Virginia Tech. She is a lifelong resident of Virginia and grew up in Northern Virginia where she now lives with her family.

**Supervisor Juli Briskman**

Supervisor Juli Briskman was elected to represent the Algonkian District on the Loudon County Board of Supervisors in 2019 and reelected in 2023. She was elected by her fellow board members to serve as vice chair in 2024. She serves on the Loudon County Board of Supervisors’ Finance and Government Operations and Economic Development Committee and the Joint Board and School Board Committee. She also represents Loudoun on the Potomac Watershed Roundtable, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, and the Virginia Association of Counties. She is one of the Board’s representatives on the Loudoun County Family Services Board too.

Supervisor Briskman began her career in journalism and communications. During her career, she served overseas with the U.S. Department of State and worked as a contractor for federal agencies. Supervisor Briskman has also worked in the educational field, helping families explore pre-K options, admissions, and childcare. In addition to her professional pursuits, Supervisor Briskman has been an active community volunteer in many educational, recreational, and community groups, including the Loudoun County Public Schools, the Algonkian Running Club,
the River Crest Riptide Swim Team, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Galilee United Methodist Church. Supervisor Briskman holds a master’s degree in business administration from Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Ohio State University.

**Buddy Rizer**

Buddy Rizer serves as the Executive Director for economic development in Loudoun County, Virginia, which was named the 2021 Economic Development Organization of the Year by the International Economic Development Council. He leads the agency responsible for encouraging growth and developing relationships with Loudoun’s business community in both the commercial and agricultural-based business sectors. During his tenure, Rizer and his team have attracted more than $60 billion in new commercial investment and more than 50 thousand new jobs. During this time, the growth in the commercial based has help lower the tax rate in Loudoun by more than 41 cents on the dollar, saving residents thousands of dollars annually on their tax bill.

In 2007, Mr. Rizer joined Loudoun County and helped build “Data Center Alley” into the largest concentration of data centers in the world. He also has extensive international business development experience in China, France, Germany, Russia, Ireland, United Kingdom, Finland, Taiwan, Japan, India, Korea, Ghana, Uruguay, and the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Rizer has been named a Tech Titan 7 times by Washingtonian Magazine (2017 – 2023), has been named one of the 50 most influential Virginians 6 times by Virginia Business Magazine (2018 – 2023), a 4-time member of Virginia’s Power 500 (2020 – 2023) and was three times named to the Washington Business Journal’s Power 100 as one of the most influential businesspeople in Washington, DC (2020, 2022, 2023).

Mr. Rizer serves as the Past-Chair of the Northern Virginia Economic Development Alliance (NOVA EDA), is a member of the Board of Trustees for Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), Past-Chair of the Northern Virginia Community College Foundation Board, Secretary of the Go Virginia Region 7 Council. He is on the Board of Directors for the Northern Virginia Technology Council, the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, and the Washington Airports Task Force (WATF). He is also the Chair of the Rivana at Innovation Station Community Development Authority.
Mr. Rizer is a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD), a certified Entrepreneurship Development Professional (EDP) and a graduate of Virginia Tech’s Local Government Management Graduate Certificate Program.

**Darren Shumate**

With a BS in Architectural Engineering from Kansas State, Daren is an Electrical Engineer licensed in over twenty states with three-and-a-half decades of experience in the MEP engineering. Daren founded Shumate Engineering, an MEP engineering firm with a specialty in data center design, 2020. Since then the firm has grown into a 20-person firm with three offices. In his 25 years of designing data centers, Daren has led the design of 100s of MegaWatts and millions of square feet of data centers from Loudoun County to Texas to Utah. From January 2023 through February 2024, Mr. Shumate served as a Fairfax County Planning Commissioner representing Mason District. As Commissioner, Mr. Shumate ardently advocated for smart zoning and planning for data centers having been instrumental in the approval of a 72MW data center currently in development in Chantilly.

**Kate Smiley**

Since the start of her professional career, Kate Smiley has worked in the government and public relations sector at every level in capacities ranging from lobbying to campaigning to working in the federal and state legislature.

Kate began her career representing federal services contractors for a large trade association in Arlington, Virginia, a role in which she both led political action committee fundraising and directly lobbied members of Congress on complex defense and intelligence matters. She later expanded her issue portfolio as a legislative aide on Capitol Hill, focusing on healthcare, education, and veterans’ issues. Kate served as Chief of Staff to House Democratic Caucus Chairman Rip Sullivan. She also managed his campaign activities, including fundraising and communications during his time as campaign chair in 2019.

Most recently, Kate lobbied state and local governments for clients ranging from small nonprofit organizations to large publicly traded corporations as the assistant vice president at McGuireWoods Consulting, located in Richmond, Virginia. In this capacity, she created and executed strategic lobbying plans, bolstered her strong, bipartisan network of relationships with Virginia lawmakers, developed bill and amendment language, and published political and
Delegate Josh Thomas

Josh Thomas has represented District 21 in the Virginia House of Delegates since January 2024. Josh joined the Marine Corps following the September 11th attacks, training at Officer Candidates School in Quantico in Prince William County. In the Corps, Josh led Marines on tours in Afghanistan and the Middle East. However, his journey wasn’t just about fighting battles; it was about discovering a passion for service that would shape his Life.

After five years of serving his country on active duty, Josh traded his combat boots for books and the pursuit of justice. At the College of William and Mary, he learned how to use the law to help small businesses, build homes and defend those that need it most. As an attorney, Josh set his sights on uplifting communities, ensuring affordable housing for all, and helping entrepreneurs and small businesses across Virginia thrive.

When the COVID-19 pandemic plunged the world into chaos again, Josh refused to stand idly by. He answered the call to serve yet again, joining Virginia’s Medical Reserve Corps to help combat the health and economic impacts of the disease. Josh continues to fight for Virginians every day by advocating for the rights of Veterans, the LGBTA+ community, and helping to secure asylum for those fleeing from Afghanistan.

3:30-5 pm: Policy Communication: Preparing Press Releases, Press Conferences, and Testimony

Lisa Joy-Zgorski

Lisa-Joy Zgorski is a public affairs specialist in the Office of Director at the National Science Foundation. In this role, she serves as the agency lead for NSF Days, which are workshops NSF co-sponsors with partner universities to teach researchers how to submit effective proposals and obtain NSF support for their work. Zgorski has been working for the NSF since 2007 and has received the Director’s Award for work with the Computer Information Science and Engineering directorate and the National Science Board.
Zgorski has previously served as a legislative aide for Congresswoman Barbara Kennelly and has appeared on “Larry King Live” as chairwoman of the Capitol Hill Women’s Political Caucus in support of women against sexual harassment in Congress. She has worked with former Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford on a national commission for election reform, served in Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown’s press office, acted as spokeswoman for Connecticut gubernatorial candidate Dannel Malloy, spoke in the Palestinian territories on effective political campaigning as a delegate with the American Council of Young Political Leaders, and received Harvard Kennedy School’s first annual Julius E. Babbitt Alumni Award for Volunteerism.

Zgorski holds a master's degree in public policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, a certificate from the Charles University Law School in Prague, a bachelor's degree in international relations and women’s studies from Mount Holyoke College, and a certificate in policy studies from Dartmouth College.

6:45-8 pm: How to Get Involved in Public Service Careers: Panel and Discussion

Rebecca Dooley

Rebecca Dooley is the communications director for the Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services in D.C. In 2018, she began her career in public service serving as a policy fellow in the Office of the Governor in Virginia. Shortly after, she started as a social media and digital communication coordinator for the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services. She quickly moved up the ranks to become the Senior Communications Officer for the department in 2023.

Dooley serves on the Gender and Policy Center’s advisory board. Dooley earned her bachelor’s degree in political science and government from George Mason University’s Schar School of Policy and Government in 2018. She was awarded the inaugural Gender and Policy Leadership Award in 2018 for co-founding the George Mason University’s Women’s Leadership Conference in 2017 alongside alumna Danielle Melton. Dooley also cofounded and served as communications director for the Mason Model World Health Organization Conference, and she was the health policy director for the Roosevelt Institute as an undergraduate.
Jamari Green
Jamari Green is the social impact lead for the 14,000 professionals in Deloitte’s largest market, Greater Washington. In her role, she spearheads efforts in the nation’s capital region to address pressing societal issues, help change lives, foster engagement with the local community, and direct pivotal investments in support of over 45 nonprofits in the region. Green started her professional journey in 2016 as an intern, where she provided recommendations to reduce recidivism rates and improve reentry outcomes. This experience ignited her passion for community activism. Before working as a social impact lead, Green worked as a corporate citizenship strategist and business analyst at Deloitte.

Green earned her Bachelor of Business Administration from Claflin University in 2017. Green serves on the Advisory Committee for Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound Schools, an organization aimed at making world-class outdoor education accessible to all. She also serves on the Advisory Council for Leadership Arlington to offer strategic advice to the nonprofit and help grow their corporate network.

Shafuq Naseem
Shafuq Naseem serves as a health and safety advocate at the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. In 2023, she earned her Bachelor of Arts in government and international politics at George Mason University. Her previous work experience includes the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the American Federation of Government Employees, the National Partnership for Women and Families, and the American Civil Liberties Union. At these organizations, she focused on numerous labor policy issues, such as paid leave and worker health and safety in various sectors.

During her undergraduate career, she was a research assistant through the Undergraduate Research Program at the Schar School of Policy and Government, where she researched laws addressing menstrual equity in the United States. She is a former Gender and Policy Center Leadership Award recipient, and she currently serves on the center’s advisory board.
Lady Chioma Nwadike

Lady Chioma Nwadike is a community health specialist with the Fairfax County Health Department. In this role, she applies her scientific and medical skills to address health disparities and promote health equity in minority communities. Lady Nwadike has more than six years of leadership experience in various health-related roles with organizations such as the Institute for Public Health Innovation, the National Quality Forum, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America.

Lady Nwadike has also volunteered for many health organizations, including the Feminist Women’s Health Center and the Center for Black Women’s Wellness. She also possesses multiple certifications in youth mental health, naloxone administration, and victim advocacy. Lady Nwadike received her master’s degree in biophysics and physiology with a focus on integrative medicine and health sciences from Georgetown University and her bachelor’s degree in biology from Spelman College.

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

1-2:30 pm: Networking Workshop: Making Connections

Saskia Campbell

Saskia Campbell has nearly twenty years of experience in higher education working on issues of access, diversity and inclusion. She started working at George Mason University in 2012. Now, she is the executive director of University Career Services at George Mason University. In this role, Campbell leads a diverse team of twenty professional staff committed to preparing career-ready students for post-graduate success.

Campbell has previously worked in career services at the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment and the University of Virginia where she received an Innovation Excellence Award from the National Association of Colleges and Employers. She began her career in higher education as the assistant dean of admission at the College of William and Mary. She earned her Master of Education from the University of Virginia and her Bachelor of Arts from the College of William and Mary.
6:45-8pm: EMPower: Women in Emergency Management and Traditionally Underrepresented Fields: Panel and Discussion

**Vanessa Calaban**

Vanessa Calaban (she/her) is a disaster risk reduction planner with the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, where her portfolio covers everything from disaster housing to food system resiliency to hazard mitigation planning to critical infrastructure protection. She has served in the State Emergency Operations Center for multiple incidents and events, including the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse, Tropical Storm Ida, the 2023 Gubernatorial Inauguration, a public water contamination crisis, and two cyber incidents. Prior to her work at MDEM, Vanessa studied disaster communications and community preparedness initiatives while living in Taiwan. As an emergency manager, she is continually seeking opportunities to learn about and advocate for universal access throughout the disaster cycle.

Vanessa is a Maryland Professional Emergency Manager and holds a Master of Public Administration with an emergency management concentration from the University of Colorado; a Graduate Certificate in Women, Politics, and Public Policy from the University of Massachusetts; and a Bachelor of Music from Ithaca College. She enjoys hiking, gardening, meeting new dogs, and finding the perfect GIF for every situation.

**Katie Simon**

Katie Simon is an Emergency Preparedness Program Manager with the U.S. Senate Sergeant at Arms. In her current role, she works with Senators, Committees, and staff to develop, train, and exercise emergency plans and procedures, and supports security-sensitive incidents and events such as the State of the Union Address, Presidential Inaugurations, and ad hoc incident response. Prior to the Senate, Katie worked in Arlington County Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management, where she supported the County’s COVID-19 emergency response work as Planning Section Chief among other responsibilities. Katie is an alumna of Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota (BA, 2010), George Mason University Schar School (MPA, 2019), and the Naval Postgraduate School (Emergence,
Hannah Winant

Hannah Winant is a certified emergency manager and the deputy director for Arlington County Government’s Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management. In this role, she provides strategic leadership and direction for Arlington County’s emergency preparedness, emergency operations, and emergency volunteer management programs. Before serving as deputy director, Winant was a public affairs manager and a public health analyst for Arlington County’s Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management.

Winant received her Master of Science in International Health from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom and her Bachelor of Arts in sociology, anthropology, Spanish, and psychology from Ohio Wesleyan University.

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

9-10:30 am: Speaking Your Truth

Dr. Jatia Wrighten

Dr. Jatia Wrighten is an assistant professor of political science at Virginia Commonwealth University, where she conducts research on black women, state legislatures, and leadership, with an emphasis on intersectionality. Her current project examines the differences in leadership attainment that exists between black women, white women, black men, and white men in state legislatures and the factors that cause these differences. She created the novel theory, the heavy lifters theory, to explain the primary differences between black male and black female legislators as it relates to leadership in state legislatures.

She was awarded the Gender and Leadership Dissertation Award from the Gender and Policy Center for her work focusing on intersectionality and leadership. Dr. Wrighten earned her PhD from George Mason University, her Master of Arts from the University of Maryland, and her Bachelor of Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University.
1-2:30 pm: Making Your Voice Heard
Minna Taylor

Minna Taylor is the author of *A Confident Body: A Functional Approach to Unlocking Your Full Potential*. In her book, she seeks to redefine confidence not as some subjective designation based on an idea of what confidence looks like, but rather as a perception based on a set of behaviors that we can all practice and embody. In 2014, Minna founded Energize Your Voice, a boutique communication consultancy. She has worked with organizations such as UBER, Red Bull, Fidelity, and Ernest and Young.

Minna earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts from New York University Tisch School of the Arts and her Master of Fine Arts in performance from Brooklyn College. While she currently lives in Brooklyn, Minna grew up in Virginia.

6:45-8 pm: Recognition of “Women Who Mind the GAP” and Panel Discussion
Naomi Barry-Perez

Naomi Barry-Perez has served as the Director of Civil Rights for the U.S. Department of Labor since 2012. In this position, she directs DOL's civil rights enforcement and compliance programs pursuant to Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, among other statutes. Barry-Perez serves as the principal advisor to the Secretary of Labor and Departmental leadership on civil rights and equal employment opportunity regarding entities receiving federal financial assistance from the Department of Labor as well as employment with the Department of Labor.

Additionally, Barry-Perez held the position of Chief of Internal Enforcement where she oversaw the investigation and adjudication of complaints of discrimination within the Department. She also served as Acting Chief of the Office of Compliance Assistance and Planning, the entity dedicated to providing Departmental stakeholders with information on how to comply with applicable laws and regulations. Barry-Perez served as a Budget Examiner in the Education
Branch of the Office of Management and Budget from 1999 to 2000. She also served as a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Fellow in the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights from 1996 to 1997.

Barry-Pérez holds a bachelor's degree in politics from Mount Holyoke College and a Master of Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. In addition, she held a Public Interest Law Fellowship at the Georgetown University Law Center where she received a juris doctor degree. Barry-Pérez is the recipient of numerous national awards, including a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Alumnae Achievement Award, Secretary of Labor Exceptional Service Awards, the inaugural Federal Employee Leadership Award given by the National Farmworker Conference, a National Hispanic Scholarship, a Harry S Truman Scholarship for Public Service, and a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for Public Policy.

**Kinsey Fabrizio**

Kinsey Fabrizio is president of the Consumer Technology Association, which represents more than 1,300 consumer technology companies and owns and produces CES, the most powerful tech event in the world. In this role, Fabrizio sits on CTA’s Executive Board and drives strategy and growth for CES and CTA, leading the CES, membership, conferences and marketing, and communications departments.

Since joining CTA in 2008, Fabrizio has played a pivotal role in transforming CTA and CES. As senior vice president, she managed all things CES, leading a dramatic expansion of CES sales and overseeing international media events, conferences, and show operations. Previously, Fabrizio led efforts to increase member and exhibitor recruitment as lead for strategic growth in emerging tech categories. A pioneer in the digital health space, she also created CTA’s health division. Recognizing opportunities in content and entertainment, Fabrizio also started CTA’s Content and Entertainment Council. In 2016, she also established CTA’s Disruptive Innovation Council to engage companies with unique and cutting-edge technologies and services. Fabrizio was awarded the Women in CT Legacy Award in 2023, recognizing her longtime leadership and contributions to the consumer technology industry. She was also named to Dealerscope’s 40 under 40 in 2015. Before joining CTA, Fabrizio worked with Smith Bucklin and Northern Virginia Mediation Service. She served on the American Society of Association Executive’s Membership Professionals Advisory Council from 2018 to 2021 and is currently an associate member of the Washington Economic Club. Fabrizio holds a bachelor’s degree from George Mason University and an MBA from the University of Maryland Global Campus.
Diana Ortiz

Diana Ortiz is a passionate and creative leader with nearly 20 years of experience working for the wellbeing and safety of children, youth, and underserved populations. Diana is president and CEO of Doorways, a community-based nonprofit providing services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as youth and families experiencing homelessness. In this role, she provides overall strategic direction to Doorways and plays a leading role in planning, fundraising, leadership team management, and operations.

Diana originally came to Doorways in 2009 as a child mental health specialist. She was promoted to clinical director in 2012 and oversaw the full spectrum of Doorways’ client service delivery for more than five years. In 2018, Diana moved to Japan to serve as a family advocacy program manager with the Marine Corps Community Services. After nearly three years abroad, Diana and her family returned to the Arlington area, and Diana served as the director of social services for Ayuda until Doorways appointed Diana president and CEO in 2021. Diana is a Licensed Professional Counselor and registered clinical supervisor. She earned her bachelor’s in psychology from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia; her master’s in counseling and human development from George Mason University; and her doctorate in counselor education from George Mason University.
Thursday, June 13, 2024

U.S. Capitol

Representative Don Beyer

Congressman Don Beyer is serving his fifth term at the U.S. Representative from Virginia’s 8th district, representing Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, and parts of Fairfax County. He serves on Congress’ Joint Economic Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means. He is a member of the New Democratic Coalition’s Climate Change Task Force and the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Rep. Beyer enrolled at George Mason University in fall 2022 to begin work towards a master’s degree in computer science with a concentration in machine learning.

Rep. Beyer’s public service began in 1986 when Governor Gerald Baliles appointed him to the Commonwealth Transportation Board, responsible for overseeing the Virginia Department of Transportation and allocating highway funding to specific projects. From 1990-1998, Rep. Beyer served as the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, and was Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein under President Obama. As Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, his signature work included advocacy for Virginians with disabilities and ensuring protections for Virginia’s most vulnerable populations as the Commonwealth reformed its welfare system in the mid-1990s. He was also Virginia’s Democratic Nominee for Governor in 1997.

After leaving office, Rep. Beyer served in various leadership roles. He spent fourteen years as Chair of Jobs for Virginia Graduates, a successful high school dropout prevention program, and was active for a decade on the board of the D.C. campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. As chair of the Virginia Economic Recovery Commission, he helped pass pro-business reforms and was co-founder of the Northern Virginia Technology Council.

In 2009 President Obama nominated Rep. Beyers to serve as ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein. While ambassador, he advocated for stricter sanction to compel Iran to begin nuclear disarmament discussions. As Ambassador, Rep. Beyers was integral to US Department of Justice efforts to halt abuses of Swiss bank secrecy by wealthy Americans.

For four decades, Rep. Beyers helped build his family business in Northern Virginia following a summer job at the dealership in 1974. He sold the business in 2019. He is a graduate of Williams College and Gonzaga High School in Washington, DC. He was named a Presidential Scholar by President Lyndon Johnson.
**Representative Jen Kiggans**

Congresswoman Jen Kiggans has served as the U.S. Representative for Virginia’s 2nd district, representing Virginia Beach, the Eastern Shore, part of Chesapeake and Southampton, Isle of Wight, Suffolk, and Franklin City. She sits on the House Armed Services Committee, House Committee on Natural Resources, and House Committee on Veteran’s Affairs.

Before beginning her service in the U.S. Navy, she taught English in public schools in Matsuyama, Japan. She served for ten years in the U.S. Navy, completing two deployments to the Persian Gulf as an H-46 and H-3 helicopter pilot. After serving in the U.S. Navy Rep. Kiggans, used her GI Bill benefits to go back to school and become a board-certified Adult-Geriatric Primary Care Nurse Practitioner.

Rep. Kiggans served three sessions in the Virginia State Senate, where she championed legislation to establish a Military Spouse Liaison and advocated for patients, families, and caregivers in long-term care facilities.

A graduate of Old Dominion University’s Nursing School, and Vanderbilt University’s Nurse Practitioner program, Rep. Kiggans has worked in several long-term care and nursing facilities, in Virginia Beach and Norfolk in addition to serving as a primary care provider for a small private practice in Virginia Beach. She has a private practice in Virginia Beach and is a recipient of the Boston University Scarlet Key Award for exceptional leadership.

**Representative Abigail Spanberger**

U.S. Representative Abigail Spanberger represents the people of Virginia’s Seventh Congressional District in the U.S. House.

Abigail’s career has been defined by public service. She first swore an oath to the U.S. Constitution as a federal agent with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. In this role, she investigated money laundering and narcotics cases. Then, as a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) case officer, she worked at home and abroad to collect intelligence, keep our country safe from terrorism, and inform policymakers in their national security
decisions. Following her time at CIA, Abigail joined the private sector and helped American colleges and universities diversify their student bodies, expand opportunities for Americans entering the workforce, and increase graduation rates.

First elected to the U.S. House in 2018, Abigail serves on the U.S. House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and U.S. House Agriculture Committee. She is also a member of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus.

On the House Intelligence Committee, she serves on the National Intelligence Enterprise Subcommittee and the Defense Intelligence & Overhead Architecture Subcommittee. On the House Agriculture Committee, she serves as Ranking Member of the Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology Subcommittee and as a member of the Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Subcommittee.

The nonpartisan Lugar Center ranked Abigail as the most bipartisan Member of Virginia’s congressional delegation, and she has received several national awards for her commitment to getting results for Virginia, focusing on constituent services, and working across the aisle. Abigail grew up in Virginia. She earned her B.A. at the University of Virginia and her MBA through a dual degree program between Purdue University’s Krannert School and the GISMA Business School in Hanover, Germany. She speaks English, Spanish, German, and French. Abigail and her husband Adam have three school-aged children.

Representative Jennifer McClellan
Congresswoman Jennifer McClellan has served as the U.S. representative for Virginia’s 4th district since 2023. She sits on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Rep. McClellan has served the greater Richmond area in elected office for nearly twenty years. She was first elected to the Virginia House of Delegates representing Richmond in 2005, and served in that post until was elected to the Virginia State Senate in 2017, where she succeeded A. Donal McEachin after his election to the U.S. House of Representatives. While in the Virginia State Senate, she also served as Vice Chair of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus.

Throughout her eighteen sessions in the Virginia General Assembly, Rep. McClellan has passed over 370 pieces of legislation, including landmark bills to protect and expand voting rights,
combat climate change, preserve reproductive health care, and enhance worker’s protections and labor rights.

A lifelong Virginia native, Rep. McClellan was born in Petersburg to parents who served the community: Her father worked as a Professor at Virginia State University and her mother worked as a counselor at VSU. Rep. McClellan attended Matoaca High School in Chesterfield County, where she was valedictorian. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Richmond and obtained her Juris Doctorate from the University of Virginia School of Law. Rep. McClellan lives in Richmond with her husband, David Mills, and their two children, Jackson and Samantha.