

2018 VAHSA Annual Conference Presenters

Amy Augenblick

Executive Director, Foundations for Families

Amy Augenblick has a passion for high quality, well-managed, inclusive child care that supports working parents and nurtures children's optimal development. With a background in management consulting, masters degrees in early childhood and education, and 15 years of consulting experience to the 0-8 community, she is uniquely qualified. She created Foundations for Families to meet the business, management, and professional development needs of ECE providers and system and is committed to enhancing the lives of children and families. With FFF, Amy strengthens communities by supporting the agencies and individuals who provide early education and care to very young children.

Beth Beals

Early Childhood Specialist, ICF, International

Beth has 17 years of early childhood experience, 14 of those with Head Start. She began her Head Start career as a home visitor, then progressed through a variety of positions including ERSEA coordinator, mental health and disabilities coordinator, education manager, and regional manager. She is currently an Early Childhood Specialist (ECS) with ICF, supporting grantees in Region III and has served as a member of the training teams for both the Region III Coaching Leadership Academy and the Practice-Based Coaching Training Institute. Beth holds a BA in Early Childhood Education from Point Park College and a BS in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

Kent Berryman

Community Relations Representative, Anthem HealthKeepers Plus

Kent Berryman is the field operations manager for Anthem HealthKeepers Plus in Virginia. Anthem HealthKeepers Plus is one of Virginia's managed care organizations. Kent specializes in "taking the mystery" out of Medicaid by teaching folks how to understand Medicaid insurance. Kent has been working in managed care for over six years, first in Kentucky, and now in Virginia. He has Masters degree in Business Administration and a bachelor's degree in broadcasting.

Kent is also a 3rd degree black belt in Shaolin-Do Karate. He has taught martial arts to hundreds of students over his 15 year teaching career. In addition to teaching internal arts like Tai Chi and Pa Kua, he has also taught external forms, weapons, and knife throwing. He is the co-creator of Kata Application Theory and has written a book on the subject.

James Biggs

Volunteer/Mentor, Spotsylvania Head Start

A retired United States Marine, Mr. Woody Biggs served for 21 years primarily as an Intelligence Analyst and Military Planner. During his career, Mr. Biggs was a Command First Sergeant, Family Readiness Officer, Assistant Family Readiness Officer, mentor, and leader of Marines helping families adapt to the military lifestyle. Mr. Biggs was also a trainer in the Marine Corps Mentors in Violence Prevention Program. Retiring from the Marine Corps in 2006, Mr. Biggs moved his family to Fredericksburg, VA from Okinawa Japan. In 2008 he became a volunteer with the Spotsylvania Head Start Program supporting his awesome wife Danielle Biggs, in the classroom. In 2012, Mr. Biggs brought his volunteer efforts to the Spotsylvania Head Start Program from the classroom where he helped design, plan, and build the Spotsylvania Father Engagement Program. Mr. Biggs is currently an instructor at Quantico, VA.

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Lynn Black

Education Program Coordinator, Agriculture in the Classroom

As Education Coordinator for Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, Lynn is responsible for curriculum writing, resource development, and the facilitation of educator workshops; all with the mission of connecting children to agriculture through hands-on, real-life applications to the standards. A graduate of the University of Virginia, where she received her Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Teaching, she began her career as a Social Studies and then Gifted and Talented teacher in Hanover County before joining Virginia's Agriculture in the Classroom program in 2007. She lives outside Richmond, Virginia with her family.

Preston Blackburn

Owner, Developer, Lead Instructor, Pop, Hop & Rock

Preston Blackburn has been building strong learners through physical activity since 2000. She created Pop, Hop & Rock as a means to help teachers get the wiggles out of their kids, but over time, as children have become more sedentary, she has shifted her programming and professional development to forward her mission of Move-to-Learn. Participants in previous presentations have said she has "Awesome ideas and energy!" She was "great to listen to?" And was "very passionate, enthusiastic with terrific material" a great presenter! Don't expect to sit still too long as she believes we all learn best when we make brain-body connections through physical activity.

Pam Booker

Early Childhood Collaboration Coordinator, Partnership for People with Disabilities

Pamala Booker, M.Ed., IMH-E II is with the Partnership for People with Disabilities, at Virginia Commonwealth University, providing training and technical assistance to early care providers. Ms. Booker obtained her Masters Degree in Early Childhood Special Education from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1991. Her previous experiences includes five years with the University Affiliated Program for Developmental Disabilities at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI, two years as a pre-k special education teacher with Oakland Unified School District, Oakland, CA, two years with St. John's Community Services in their Early Intervention Program as the education coordinator Washington, D.C., two years as an Infant / Toddler Specialist with Region III Disability Services Quality Improvement Center in Norge, VA., 2½ years as a Senior Program Associate with the Early Head Start National Resource Center (EHSNRC) @ ZERO TO THREE in Washington, D.C., two years with Child Development Resources, Infant Parent Program, providing early intervention services in natural environments and seven years with the Infant & Toddler Specialist Network of Virginia. Ms. Booker has enjoyed 26+ years of providing services to children and their families directly as well as providing training and technical assistance to early childhood professionals working in early intervention programs, preschool programs, and Head Start programs across the country and the outer Pacific Basin.

Amy Bornhoft

Director of Training, Child Development Resources

Ms. Bornhoft is Child Development Resources' (CDR) Director of Training and is responsible for overseeing the planning, implementation, and evaluation of CDR's grant funded training and education projects. She brings to the project important skills in project administration, program development and evaluation. She has trained educators, parents, police officers and professionals from various disciplines on topics such as Fatherhood, Early Childhood Development, Domestic Violence, Emotional Intelligence, Mindfulness, Social and Emotional Skills, and training trainers. Ms. Bornhoft is the project director for a state funded responsible fatherhood project designed to enhance father involvement, strengthen families, and promote child well-being. She is also the Project Director for the Virginia Infant and Toddler Specialist Network funded by the Virginia Department of Social Services.

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Lynn Bowen

Head Start Administrator, East Coast Migrant Head Start Project

Lynn Bowen began her Head Start career as an infant/toddler teacher in a Migrant Head Start Center and currently serves as the Head Start Administrator of Virginia for East Coast Migrant Head Start Project. Lynn holds a M.S. in Early Childhood Education and a B.A. in Latin American Studies and Spanish. Positions that she has held include Early Childhood Specialist, Center Director, Program Coordinator, and Director of Professional Development. Lynn currently resides on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Austin Brooks

Project Associate, Virginia Cooperative Extension Family Nutrition Program

Austin Brooks, MS, RD is the Project Coordinator for the Virginia Family Nutrition Program's Nutrition and Physical Activity Social Media and Support Initiative, where she creates and shares nutrition and healthy lifestyle content in digital formats. She is the co-chair of the EFNEP Technology and Social Media Committee and assisted in the creation of the EFNEP Social Media Toolkit and co-authored the National Guidelines for Use of Social Media in EFNEP. She graduated from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Science in Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise and from the University of Vermont's Master of Science in Dietetics program and dietetic internship. Austin's passion for nutrition was discovered while learning to cook after moving out on her own during college. An avid volleyball player, Austin is able to stay active doing something she loves. It is with this perspective on Eating Smart and Moving More that Austin is able to share her love of healthy living online in hopes of inspiring others to take control of their own health through diet and exercise.

Nicole Brown

Owner, Nicole Brown Childcare Professional Services

Nicole Brown lovingly known as "Mrs. Nikki" has been in childcare since 1988. From the wealth of her experience, education and achievements the one quality that makes her the right person to lead Nicole Brown Childcare Professional Services is her unrivaled fervent desire to see children thrive in centers that are owned and operated by providers who are passionate and equipped to meet the challenges of providing early childhood care and development. One feeling Nicole always remembers throughout her growth and expansion from in home to center owner was a sense of being alone, uncertain of where to go or who to turn to. She wants every provider, in home and center to know "You Are Not Alone". Nicole Brown Childcare Professional Services are designed with you in mind; your needs, questions, fears, concerns, desires and limited resources.

Freda Carter

HS/EHS Consultant, Back2Basics Educational Consulting Services

Ms. Freda Carter, has over 16 years' experience consulting in 11 regions out of 12 to include HS, EHS, FCCH, AIAN, ARRA, EHS-CCP, home-based and pregnant moms. And her experience as a federal reviewer for eight consecutive years has led her to facilitate customized mock reviews for programs resulting in positive outcomes. She has worked with grantees from the east coast to the west on the Six Strategies of Active Supervision, Environmental Health and Safety, Playground Safety, Medication Administration Training, Child Abuse and Neglect, Diversity in the Workplace and Challenging Behaviors, to name a few. Additionally, she is also a Registered Dietitian.

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Melissa Carter

Education, Disability and Mental Health Manager, Monticello Area CAA Head Start

Melissa Carter has been a licensed teacher in both New York and Virginia, holding a dual certification in Elementary Education and Secondary Social Sciences. She spent 15 years as a classroom teacher, teaching in both public and private institutions. In addition, Melissa has served as a clinical teacher, alternative education coordinator, and has served on committees for the VDOE. Melissa served as the Director of a child care center, and as the Staff Development Coordinator for the ARC of the Piedmont. Since 2015, Melissa has served as the Education, Disability, and Mental Health Manager for MACAA Head Start. Currently, she is working on becoming a Certified Child and Adolescent Trauma Professional through the International Association of Trauma Professionals.

Mark Colaw

Grantee Specialist, ICF, International

Mark Colaw has a Bachelor's Degree in Management and 23 years of experience as a Head Start Director in WV and MD. He has been a Grantee Specialist with Region III Head Start Training and Technical Assistance since April of 2016. Mark has worked extensively with grantees across Region III Head Start on a variety of program management systems initiatives including those involving Early Head Start- CC Partnerships. His areas of expertise include program management systems, governance, ERSEA, self-assessment, on-going monitoring, and strategic planning.

Heidi Condrey

Education Manager, Parent Child Development Corporation

Heidi Condrey has 16 years of experience in early childhood education. She was a Head Start classroom teacher for 5 years and has served as an education manager for the last 11 years. Heidi holds a master degree in education and is a Conscious Discipline Certified Instructor.

Diane Craft

Professor of Physical Education, SUNY Cortland

Diane H. Craft, Ph.D., is a professor of physical education at SUNY Cortland. She has co-authored four books on developmentally appropriate, inclusive physical activity for young children including Active Play! Fun Physical Activities for Young Children. In addition, Dr. Craft has given over 200 highly acclaimed presentations, workshops and keynotes on preschool physical activities to audiences across the nation. She is currently consulting with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as the subject matter expert on Early Childhood Physical Activity.

Cecilia Cruse

OT/Subject Matter Expert Special Needs, Abilitations & Childcraft/School Specialty

Cecilia Cruse, MS. OTR/L received her BS degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Florida, and her Masters degree in Education from Georgia State University. She is SIPT (Sensory Integration & Praxis Test) certified and has over 30 years' experience in pediatrics with school-based services (including pre-school and Head Start programs) acute care and outpatient pediatric settings including Augusta University in Georgia, and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite. Cecilia has experience as a consultant, author and lecturer including TV appearances, such as CNN's Health Watch and Extreme Makeover: Home Edition. She has authored several articles for professional periodicals and magazines and has served as a trainer/consultant and service provider in several school systems. Cecilia is currently the Subject Matter Expert for Abilitations/ School Specialty Special Needs Division. She also lectures nationwide on practical sensory solutions for educators, therapists and parents. She is 'energetic' and 'entertaining' and insists on a fun learning experience.

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Ron Culberson

With a master's degree in social work, Ron spent the first part of his career working in a large hospice organization as a clinical social worker, middle manager, and senior leader. As a speaker, humorist, and author of four books including, *Do it Well. Make it Fun. The Key to Success in Life, Death, and Almost Everything in Between*, his mission is to change the workplace culture so that organizations are more productive and staff are more content. He was the 2012-2013 president of the National Speakers Association and is a recognized expert on the benefits of humor and laughter.

Jennifer Edwards

Founder and CEO, Faedadal LLC

In May 2015, our family was changed forever. While on an elementary school field trip, our youngest son (age 6) had a severe, anaphylactic reaction after eating a bite of a protein bar. After an anxiety-filled ambulance ride, several doses of epinephrine, and a 5 hour ER stay, his reaction subsided. We took him to see a local allergist to determine the cause of his reaction, and testing revealed he has a severe allergy to all tree nuts. We thought avoiding foods with tree nut ingredients would be sufficient, but as we did more research, we discovered that a reaction can be triggered by eating foods that are merely processed in a facility that also handles tree nut products. As a result, we carry Epipens and Benadryl wherever we go. Since our society revolves around food, we struggle every day with managing his food allergy - whether it is checking with the chefs at restaurants to ensure there is no tree nut contamination or planning ahead to bring nut-free food items he can eat at birthday parties and other events that have food of unknown sources. His condition has brought much stress and anxiety to keep him safe, to ensure we minimize the number of reactions and trips to the ER and to make him feel included in activities (such as swim team pizza party or a school holiday celebration) that others take for granted. Out of the need to help improve the quality of life for our family and everyone who lives with a food allergies, Faedadal LLC. was born.

Dr. Robin Foster

Medical Director, Children's Hospital of Richmond

Robin Foster is the medical director of the Child Protective Team at Children's Hospital of Richmond at Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems which evaluates over a thousand alleged victims of abuse and neglect per year. She is an Associate Professor of Pediatric and Emergency Medicine and she was the medical director/division chief of Pediatric Emergency Medicine from 1997-2016.

Robin received her undergraduate degree in chemistry at the College of William and Mary in 1985. She attended the Medical College of Virginia for medical school. She completed a pediatric residency at the Medical College of Virginia in 1992 and is board certified in general pediatrics. She completed a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia in 1996 and is board certified in pediatric emergency medicine. She is board certified in child abuse and neglect since 2011 after serving as the medical director for the Child Protective Team at Children's Hospital of Richmond for 22 years. She has developed a task force within Children's Hospital of Richmond to enhance the care of infants with substance exposure and is part of the Central Virginia Resiliency Project funded by the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation with VCU SCAN and Family Lifeline to provide comprehensive services to the mothers with substance use disorder.

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Bethany Geldmaker

Program Consultant, Virginia Department of Health

Bethany Geldmaker is currently a program consultant in the Office of Family Health Services at the Virginia Department of Health and has been in this position for over ten years. Her current job involves responsibility for early childhood state systems building, integrating service delivery, policy development, evaluation and finance. Prior to that, she held a variety of administrative, teaching and research positions. Bethany received her B.S.N. in nursing from the University of South Florida, her Masters from the University of Virginia and a PhD from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has received a number of awards including Outstanding Achievement in the Research Awards Competition, Sigma Theta Tau International Conference and the Martha Borlick Research Award for her dissertation. She was a State Early Childhood Policy Leadership Fellow, National Governor's Association and Zero To Three, October 2003-May 2005.

Julie Greene

Pending

Julia Hart

Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, Alexandria City Public Schools

Julia and Beth are early childhood special education teachers from Alexandria City Public Schools. Both Beth and Julia have an M.A. in Early Childhood Special Education from The George Washington University.

Crystal Howser

Infant and Toddler Specialist, Infant/Toddler Specialist Network/ Center for Child and Family Services

A self-described, "nerd of Early Childhood Education", Crystal Howser is an Infant and Toddler Specialist through the Center for Child and Family Services. She has a Bachelor's in Education and is currently working on her Master's in Early Childhood Special Education through Virginia Commonwealth University. She has over 14 years of experience in Early Childhood Education, including 6 years as a teacher, and 8 years as a director. She enjoys being in the classroom with her program teachers and children, and lives by the words of Bill Gates, who says, "the first five years determine the next eighty".

Mary Ellen Hutcherson

Regional Outreach Manager, 2-1-1 Virginia

Mary Ellen Hutcherson is a Regional Outreach Manager for 2-1-1 Virginia. As the Outreach Manager, Mary Ellen promotes 2-1-1 Virginia and its services to state and local governments, non-profit agencies, faith-based organizations and the public. She has extensive experience working with special populations, including Veterans, seniors and returning citizens. Mary Ellen serves as the Patient Locator Coordinator to the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association/Regional Hospital Coordination Center. She is responsible for training and the coordination and scheduling of exercises with local and regional Emergency Management and hospitals. She was part of the VDH and VHHA workgroup that produced the Patient Tracking video "Don't Lose Track: Virginia's Patient Tracking System." Mary Ellen also coordinates 2-1-1 VIRGINIA's Emergency Preparedness and Management services to local city and county governments in central, northern and western Virginia. Prior to joining 2-1-1 Virginia, Mary Ellen worked as an Executive at public relations firms in Washington, DC where she provided counseling, strategic planning, media relations and special event planning for Fortune 500 corporations and non-profit organizations. Mary Ellen graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications/Public Relations from Virginia Commonwealth University. Mary Ellen graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications/Public Relations from Virginia Commonwealth University.

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Darlene Ingram *Infant and Toddler Specialist, Infant/Toddler Specialist Network/ Center for Child and Family Services*

Mrs. Darlene Ingram is an awesome and creative speaker who strives to educate childcare providers to give their all when providing for infants to school-age children. Mrs. Ingram was the Director of Training for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampton Roads. Mrs. Ingram has spoken at national Foster Care Conferences out of state and in state, community college graduations and currently conducts free workshops on the peninsula for childcare providers. Mrs. Ingram is currently involved in a pilot program that is conducting workshops for providers who are interested in achieving an Infant Toddler Endorsement from the VA Dept. of Social Services. Mrs. Ingram uses her craft of public speaking to engage the audience while teaching skills to enhance the abilities of the provider whether in the family home or centers. There is never a dull moment in an Ingram workshop!

Jane Jenewein *Market Insights Manager, Landscape Structures*

Jane Jenewein is the Strategic Alliances Manager at Landscape Structures. In her role, she establishes and manages relationships with key organizations that serve children and their families in the areas of fitness, recreation and play. Many of Landscape Structures' partner organizations are advocates for children with disabilities or serve children living in disadvantaged areas. Additionally, Jane helps lead the Landscape Structures' inclusive play team, and has been instrumental in the development of its Advisory Board, which brings together expertise from the fields of child development, occupational therapy, accessibility and adaptive recreation.

Joyce P. Jones *Executive Director/Principal/Transportation, Hopewell Public Schools Head Start*

Thirty-six years of early childhood education experience. She has worked on military installation in the United States and overseas; in public schools, community colleges, and private child development agencies. Joyce's experience includes being an administrator, instructor, mentor, trainer, and teacher. She is very active with early childhood organizations at the local, state, regional and national levels. Her philosophy of education is simply - "Good Beginnings Never End!" She work to ensure every child has a good beginning.

Emily Keenum *Health Initiative Coordinator, Virginia Early Childhood Foundation*

Emily Keenum is the Health Initiative Coordinator for the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF). In this capacity, she coordinates Virginia's Taking Steps to Healthy Steps to Healthy Success Early Care and Education Collaboratives (ECELC), an obesity prevention project led by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation in partnership with five other ECE state agencies. Virginia's ECELC provides regional training to equip early care programs to improve program-level health policies and practices, and convenes state and regional stakeholders to promote systems-level obesity prevention. VECF, a public-private partnership, works to ensure that all Virginia's children enter kindergarten healthy and ready to learn.

Beth Krugerud *Account Manager, Frog Street*

Beth Krugerud has over 25 years of education publishing sales, leadership and implementation training experience. Beth's current role with Frog Street includes representing various Early Childhood solutions across the mid-Atlantic area. Over the past four years, she has successfully presented many implementation trainings and state conference professional development sessions. Most recently she presented a Social and Emotional session at the PA Head Start Conference. Beth has proudly served on the MD Head Start Board for over two years and recently was elected Board Treasurer.

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Blanca Leyva

Mental Health Specialist, Prince William County Schools Head Start Program

Blanca Leyva (LCSW) currently works as the Mental Health Specialist for Prince William County Schools, Head Start. Blanca teaches Conscious Discipline classes to parents and assists teachers in implementation in the classroom. Blanca also assists families with learning parenting techniques during home visits and one-on-one consultations. Blanca is working with Prince William County Schools, Head Start to implement Conscious Discipline Parenting Curriculum as part of the Family Service Worker's home visits.

Lihong Ma

Chief Architect, Cleverex Systems Inc.

Mr. Lihong Ma has extensive management and technical experience in automating Head Start and CAP agencies. He has managed many Federal contracts for 20+ years. Lihong had managed or participated in many federal projects such as ECLKC, CCDP, AFCARS, HSFIS, SCYFIS and PROMIS. As an IT activist for the nation's Head Start, Lihong has been invited to speak at many national and local events. Lihong is the founder of Cleverex. He currently serves as the chief architect for the latest PROMIS software. Lihong holds an MS in Information Technology degree from George Washington University and a BS in Mathematics degree from Beijing University. Out-door walking and in-door badminton are his favorite sports. Lihong is also actively involved in the traditional Chinese health theory and practice. He lives with his wife Wendy, daughter Angela, and son Michael in Great Falls, Virginia, U.S.A.

Verlane Mack

Director, Parent Child Development Corporation

Verlane bring to our common task some twenty-nine years of experience in business management and development, coupled with increasingly responsible roles in programs that promote the welfare of children and families. She shares with you a passion to empower families through education and self-help initiatives, so that with support they may achieve their goals. Graduated with a BS from the University of Alabama, with a double major, Management & Interior Design, and a minor in Marketing. Production and Facility manager for Levi Strauss & Co for nine years. She transitioned from the private business industry, to non-profit. She brings with her a wealth of transferable skills. Pursuing a MS Degree from Old Dominion University, VA Graduate School of Education in Occupational and Technical Studies Business and Industry. Trained facilitator: Money Matter\$ and Money Smart.

Carol Marvin

Family and Community Development Specialist, Shenandoah Valley Head Start/Early Head Start

Carol Marvin has over 28 years experience working with children and families in community and school settings. She has been with Shenandoah Valley Head Start/Early Head Start for four years as the Family and Community Development Specialist. She earned her BS degree in Social Sciences from the University of Virginia's College at Wise and her MA and EdS degrees in Community Counseling from James Madison University.

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Paul McGhee

Paul McGhee is President of The Laughter Remedy in Wilmington, Delaware, USA. With a PhD in Developmental Psychology, he is internationally known for his own research on children's humor. He has published many scientific articles and fifteen books on humor (five specifically on children's humor), including *Understanding and Promoting the Development of Young Children's Humor: A Guide for Parents and Teachers*. Paul has received lifetime achievement awards from Oakland University, the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor and the International Society for Humor Studies for both his basic research on humor and work on practical daily applications of humor. He now works full time as a professional speaker, having first spent 20 years teaching at the university level. He has provided keynotes and workshops to many early childhood organizations across North America, as well as in Germany, Australia and Singapore.

Cheri Meadowlark

Site Supervisor, People, Incorporated of Virginia

Cheri Meadowlark has been working with families 30 years. She has worked from California to Africa developing programs for women and children coming out of Domestic Violence homes. She has developed animal assisted and Horse Assisted programs working with abused children. She continues to work with Organizations in Southwest Virginia providing services for women and children. She has a Masters in Clinical Psychology and All but dissertation for a PhD in Educational Psychology. She also holds an International PhD in Psychology. Cheri has a passion to see women rise up in leadership to develop their skills in the community.

Ron Mohl

Lead Educational Presenter, Lakeshore Learning Materials

Ron Mohl brings over 18 years of experience in the education industry to his position of Lead Educational Presenter for Lakeshore Learning Materials. In this role, Ron has presented to school districts, public and private institutions, Head Start programs, and military bases across the country. By focusing on the importance of play in the learning process, Ron's trainings help educators enrich their curricula.

Tina Norris

Family Engagement Specialist, PEATC

Tina Norris brings years of experience working with children, adolescents and families to her position as the Family Engagement Specialist at PEATC. Tina is responsible for developing and managing the family engagement initiative and is passionate about empowering families through education and advocacy. She is a skilled trainer in bullying prevention, puberty and family engagement. As a parent who has guided her own children through the elaborate education system she believes that family engagement is essential for the success of all children. Her expertise and practical approach allows her to establish collaborative relationships with schools, communities and advocacy organizations as an avenue to strengthen family engagement within our communities and schools. She is a Certified Bullying Prevention Specialist, a member of the Family Engagement Network, National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement, International Bullying Prevention Association and the Virginia School Counselors Association.

Beth Pellowitz

Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, Alexandria City Public Schools

Beth is an early childhood special education teachers from Alexandria City Public Schools. Beth has her M.A. in Early Childhood Special Education from The George Washington University.

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Keith Pentz

National Early Childhood Specialist, Kaplan Early Learning Company

Keith L. Pentz, National Early Childhood Specialist for Kaplan Early Learning Company, has been in the field of education for more than 35 years. Keith began his career by working in childcare with infants and toddlers. Later, he taught elementary students as well as Kindergarten. Keith spent the remainder of his classroom time teaching PreKindergarten and working specifically with low socio-economic and diverse families as well as inclusion students. Following his experiences in the classroom, Keith moved on to teach at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida, and he also was an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts.

Amanda Perez

Senior Advocacy Specialist, ZERO TO THREE

As a Senior Advocacy Specialist, Amanda Perez works with ZERO TO THREE's advocacy team to help policymakers and voters understand the ways that policies impact babies and their families in their crucial first years of development. Amanda comes to her role with experience as an infant-toddler teacher supported by the Child Care Development Block Grant, an early interventionist under funding from Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and sixteen years as a trainer and technical assistance provider with Early Head Start. She is most interested in engaging families in grassroots advocacy for their young children and communities. Amanda has an MSW from Virginia Commonwealth University and earned a Certificate in Interdisciplinary Early Intervention from the Virginia Institute for Developmental Disabilities.

Debbie Pfeiffer

Director of Outreach Services, Outreach Services, Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind

Debbie Pfeiffer, Ed.D., CED, has worked with children and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing as a teacher, interpreter, case manager, speech and language diagnostician, and administrator, and established parent/infant outreach programs in two states for children who are deaf or hard of hearing and their families. Dr. Pfeiffer has a B.S. degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Syracuse University, a Masters in Education of the Deaf from Gallaudet University, and a Doctorate in Education Administration and Policy Studies from The George Washington University. She served as Virginia Department of Education's Specialist for Deafness, Blindness/Visual Impairment, Deaf-Blindness, and Traumatic Brain Injury for 12 years, and is currently Director of state Outreach Services for the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind in Staunton, VA.

Belinda Piercy

Grantee Specialist, ICF, International

Mrs. Belinda Piercy has over 37 years of experience in the Early Childhood Education field. She has taught kindergarten, first and third grade. She served as a Head Start Director for 9 years and Preschool Principal for 15 years. In addition, she has over 18 years of experience as an Adjunct Professor teaching Early Childhood Education classes. She has provided TTA to grantees in the areas of program governance, fiscal management and program planning. Belinda has a BS in Early Childhood Education from North Carolina A&T State University and a M.Ed. in Educational Administration and Supervision from Virginia State University.

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Dr. Patricia Popp

EHCY State Coordinator, Project HOPE-Virginia

Patricia A. Popp, Ph.D. is the state coordinator for the education of homeless children and youth in Virginia and a clinical associate professor at The College of William and Mary. Prior to joining The College in 1995, Pat was a teacher for students with learning disabilities. Her research interests include students experiencing homelessness and high mobility, students with disabilities, and teacher quality.

Her publications include *Students on the Move*, *Reading on the Go*, and *Effective Teaching and At-Risk/Highly Mobile Students* for NCHE and *West Meets East* for ASCD. She has presented at international, national, and state level conferences in the areas of highly mobile and homeless students, classroom management, and teacher effectiveness. Pat is a past president of the Virginia Council for Learning Disabilities, past president of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY), and past chair of the NAEHCY Education Fund committee.

Carolyn Porter

Region III Head Start Grantee Specialist, ICF, International

Carolyn Tyler Porter has over 31 years of experience as an educator and school administrator, including 23 years as the Director of Head Start and Early Head Start in both an urban and suburban setting. She has extensive professional background in budget development, program development, management and evaluation. She has provided specialized TTA in the area of program design and management including governance, human resources, planning, community, self-assessment, ERSEA, and ongoing monitoring.

Mrs. Porter has a BS in elementary education from Virginia Commonwealth University and a MEd in early childhood education from Virginia State University. Additionally, she processes a postgraduate professional license in educational administration.

Joe Preece

Early Childhood Specialist, ICF, International

Mr. Preece has 17 years' experience in the Head Start/Early Head Start community. Mr. Preece worked in a local program for 8 years as a Family and Community Partnership Specialist and Infant and Toddler Specialist before moving into the Head Start Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) system. While in the TTA system Mr. Preece has conducted numerous trainings around the country on a myriad of early childhood topics. Mr. Preece also served as chair of the 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 Birth to Three Institute national conferences while at the Early Head Start National Resource Center. Currently, Mr. Preece is an Early Childhood Specialist with ICF providing expert training and technical assistance to Head Start programs in West Virginia and Virginia. Mr. Preece has a Bachelor's of Social Work and BA in Early Childhood Education from Concord University, a MS in Strategic Leadership from MountainState University, and an ED.S in Educational Leadership from Liberty University.

Katie Quigley

Early Head Start Director, Child Development Resources EHS

Katie Quigley currently serves as the Early Head Start Director at Child Development Resources in Williamsburg, Virginia. Katie has worked with this program for the past 17 years and is a certified PITC I-V trainer (Program for Infant Toddler Care), Playground Inspector, Family Development Credential (FDC) Trainer, and is ITERS (Infant Toddler Environments Rating Scale) reliable.

Katie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications and is a graduate of the UCLA Head Start Fellows program.

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Judy Radford

ESL Professional Development Coordinator, Virginia Department of Education

Judy Radford serves as the lead in the implementation of the English language development standards; designing statewide professional development; reviewing English as a Second Language (ESL) endorsement programs at institutions of higher education; and representing Virginia on the World-Class Instructional and Design (WIDA) consortium. She provides support to the Title III team, school divisions, institutes of higher education, and organizations, and also aids in the state review of public charter school applications. Before joining the Department ten years ago, she served as a secondary ESL liaison with the Chesterfield County Public Schools. Prior to that she was an ESL specialist for the U. S. Department of Defense. Judy has served as an adjunct faculty member at colleges and universities.

John Richardson-Lauve

Director of Mental Health and Lead Trauma and Resilience Educator, ChildSavers

John Richardson-Lauve is a licensed clinical social worker with over 20 years of experience working in the field of community mental health. He is committed to the support and strengthening of individuals and communities that struggle with adversity. His experience includes work with chronically mentally ill adults, substance abuse, residential youth care, foster care, and outpatient mental health. He has worked with homeless veterans in New York City, in a hospice home for those with HIV in the early stages of the AIDS crisis, and 6 years living in a home with 8 teenage girls in foster care. He is an experienced trainer, lecturer and keynote presenter. He is the Director of Mental Health and Lead Trauma and Resilience Educator at ChildSavers, an outpatient mental health clinic which has served children and families in the Richmond community for over 90 years. He and his wife have a 10 year old son and have worked with over 50 children in foster care in their home.

Karen Schell

Early Literacy Outreach Coordinator, Virginia Beach Public Library

Ms. Schell is the Early Literacy Outreach (ELO) Coordinator for Virginia Beach Public Library. She coordinates the Library's partnerships with area preschools, including the five Head Starts located in Virginia Beach. She works with preschools to arrange storytimes on VBPL's bookmobile and schedule library book deliveries as well as teacher trainings. Ms. Schell is a former classroom teacher and school librarian.

Gigi Schweikert

Gigi Schweikert is a popular speaker at early childhood conferences and parenting seminars. She is the author of several books, contributes to early childhood periodicals and journals, including Children and Families, eFamily News, Northwest Baby & Child, Cricket Magazine, and Child Care Information Exchange. Gigi hosted a cable television show, Today's Family, and directed the United Nations Early Childhood Program in New York City and developed the Johnson & Johnson System of Family Centers. Her other clients include Prudential, Community Bible Study International, Bank of America, Merck, IBM, Genentech, and SC Johnson Wax.

Pat Scorzetti

Early Childhood Category Manager, Childcraft/School Specialty

22 Years Early Childhood Sales Consultant and Trainer: Reggio Emilia Curriculum, Light Tables, Early Childhood, Classroom Planning, Environments, Block Play, Literacy, Science, Math, Sand & Water, Art, Playground Safety and Supervision

2018 VAHSA Annual Conference Presenters

Stacey Sheppard

Director, Human Services, TAP Head Start/Early Head Start

Stacey Sheppard is a native of Salem Virginia and a graduate of Glenvar High School. She has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Ferrum College. During High School she became a Salem Police Explorer and followed her love of Law Enforcement where she served for just shy of 21 years at the City of Salem Police Department. Stacey retired as the first female Sergeant for the Salem Police Department. During her service in Law Enforcement she was named Officer of Year and received a Golden Halo Award from Children's Trust for her advocacy and case investigation work with special victims.

Stacey is a member of AAUW, (American Association of University Women), Co-chair of the Roanoke Valley Domestic Violence Fatality Review team, and Chair of the Roanoke Valley Family Violence Coordinating Council. After retiring from law enforcement, she wanted to continue serving her community and accepted a position at TAP as Director of Housing and Human Services. She is married and has five children. Stacey enjoys camping, traveling and being outdoors and singing. One of Stacey's favorite sayings is Kindness is the greatest wisdom-

Ingrid Sherwood

Teacher, Montessori

A traditional elementary teacher, Mrs. Sherwood entered into Montessori by happenstance. Trained by the American Montessori Society in Early Childhood (3- to 6-year-olds), she taught 4 years in a Montessori magnet school in Houston, TX, and 8 years in a Montessori charter school in Frederick, MD. Intermittently, she taught traditional Pre-K through Grade 7 in public, private, and homeschool settings. Having "retired" from Texas, Maryland, and Virginia, she is currently the K-3 PALS instructor at Amherst Elementary School in Amherst, VA.

Dr. Peter Smith

Dr. Smith has practiced Internal Medicine, Allergy, and Clinical Immunology in the Fredericksburg Virginia area since 1972. Since 2002 Dr. Smith has served as the physician advisor for Planning District 16 School Health Team which supports private and public schools in the City of Fredericksburg and the surrounding 4 counties. In the past 18 months Dr. Smith and many members on the School Health Team and in the community have been very active in addressing issues of opiate abuse education and management of opiate overdose including the availability of opiate antagonists.

Karla Sprouse

Early Childhood Specialist, ICF, International

Karla Sprouse, M.Ed. has been working with young children since 1989 and with Head Start/Early Head Start since 2004. She has been an Infant Toddler Specialist, a teacher, a family consultant, a Center Director, an Education and Disabilities Coordinator, and the Director of an Early Head Start program in Virginia. Throughout her career, Karla worked to promote collaborative efforts to increase quality education for young children both in her community and across the state. She holds her Masters of Teaching and Learning: Early Childhood from Liberty University and her Bachelor's degree in Human Services, Management. Karla is also a 2013 graduate of the UCLA/Johnson & Johnson Head Start Management Fellows Program.

2018 VAHSA Annual Conference Presenters

Hilda Stevens

Executive Director of Professional Development, Successful Innovations, Inc

Hilda C Stevens has over 35 years in early childhood and elementary aged education. Her passion for student learning is mirrored in her expertise as a family engagement advocate and professional development specialist. Mrs. Stevens has 10 years of experience as a national presenter on capacity building strategies to create collaborative family, school and community partnerships that will enhance student achievement and school improvement goals. She is the co-founder of Successful Innovations, Inc. and co-creator of the National Family Engagement Summit, the largest conference for educators in the nation.

Jennifer Tonkin

Family Engagement Specialist, Prince William County Schools Head Start

Jennifer Tonkin (BSW/MS) is currently the Family Engagement Specialist for Prince William County Head Start. Jennifer has also worked as a Family Service Worker and Enrollment Specialist with Head Start and as a Child Protection Investigator with Social Services.

Darlene Walker

CEO/Founder, Catapult Parent Education, LLC

Darlene D.M. Walker is the CEO & Founder of Catapult Parent Education, LLC of Hampton, Virginia. As CEO of Catapult, Mrs. Walker leads the agency that provides supportive family engagement opportunities and education for parents who want to build their capacity to promote and strengthen their family structures. Catapult empowers parents by helping to enrich their parenting skills through classes, workshops and seminars.

Darlene is a graduate from the Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work at Norfolk State University. Darlene has worked as a social worker, classroom teacher, parent educator and qualified mental health professional for the last 25 years. Her knowledge and professional experiences working with children and their families lead her to become a trained parent education seminar provider in the state of Virginia. She is currently serving as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP), formerly known as Office of Human Affairs (OHA) in Newport News, the President of BCDI-Hampton Roads of the National Black Child Development Institute, Executive Board Member for Newport News Healthy Families Initiative (Newport News, VA) Member, Hampton Roads Parenting Education Network (HRPEN) and a member of the Virginia Statewide Parent Education Coalition (VSPEC). In 2010, she received the Virginia Statewide Award, 2nd Place recognition from Successful Innovations, Inc. (Lynchburg, VA) for Best Practice in Parent Involvement. She is also a SWAM Certified State vendor and Notary Public of the Commonwealth.

Darlene is a strong advocate for positive parental involvement and understands that there are parents who need help in bringing forth their best parenting abilities. Strong parents build strong families; strong families create stronger communities.

2018 VAHSA Annual Conference Presenters

Jeanne Wall

Wolf Trap Master Teaching Artist, Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts

Wolf Trap Master Teaching Artist JEANNE WALL received her BA from the University of Maryland in Drama Therapy and since 1996 has provided professional development for early childhood educators and professionals throughout the United States with Wolf Trap Institute. Jeanne collaborated with other Wolf Trap Master Artists Joe Pipik (her husband), Michele Valeri and Ingrid Crepeau to create Wolf Trap Institute's Field Trip performance honoring the environment, "Junkyard Pirates." In addition to her work as a Wolf Trap Master Teaching Artist, she designs puppets and performs in Goodlife Theatre productions, Tanka Tales & Granny's Appalachian Tales. In 2000, Jeanne was commissioned to design and perform a special shadow puppet show for The National Museum for Women in the Arts in conjunction with the Julie Taymor Exhibit. As a variety artist, she has toured the United States from coast to coast as well as appearing in Canada, Asia, and the Caribbean with her unusual blend of humor and circus skills, including juggling, unicycle, puppetry and music.

In 2016 Jeanne created a Berry Tale, an original fairytale puppet show with an all berry cast. Berry Tale focused on organic gardening principles and protecting our pollinators. It also provided a community service opportunity with the audience picking 125 lbs of berry's for the local food pantry after the performance.

Lynn Wolfe

Director, CDR Infant and Parent Program, Child Development Resources

Lynn Wolfe is a licensed and registered occupational therapist and has been the Director of CDR's Infant & Parent Program since 2008. In that capacity, she serves as the Local Part C Systems Manager for Williamsburg, James City, York, and Poquoson. Prior to becoming Director, Lynn provided over ten years of direct services to infants and toddlers with disabilities. Lynn is the Governor's appointee to the Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council, is a longstanding member of the Tidewater Regional Interagency Council and has served in various capacities on statewide workgroups to improve Part C funding mechanisms, expand the state data system, and develop Virginia's statewide IFSP.
