

2021 VIRGINIA EDUCATION SUMMIT

December 2 – 3, 2021 | Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA

**Day One: Thursday December 2, 2021: Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA**

12:45 – 1:00PM	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Old Dominion University
1:00 – 2:00PM	<p>Early Childhood Improving Outcomes for Virginia’s Youngest Children</p> <p>The prenatal-to-five years of one’s life set the foundation for future health and well-being. Therefore, it is critical that the Commonwealth’s youngest citizens receive quality early care and learning experiences during these critical years of neurological development. In this session, legislators and resource experts will discuss where current early childhood initiatives, including systems unification, stand in the Commonwealth. Additionally, session participants will discuss how legislators can support the development of science-based policy for children and families prenatal-to-five.</p> <p>Opening Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamela Northam, First Lady, Commonwealth of Virginia <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Dan Wuori, Senior Director of Early Learning, The Hunt Institute <p>Resource Experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Howard, President & CEO, E3: Elevate Early Education • Jenna Conway, Chief School Readiness Officer, Virginia Department of Education 	Old Dominion University
2:00 – 3:00PM	<p>Teacher Workforce Policy and Practice Creating the Conditions for a Strong and Diverse Teacher Workforce</p> <p>To recruit and retain more teachers, the Commonwealth's leaders must take an “all of the above” approach. Its strategies must address not only teacher preparation programs, but also the Commonwealth's teacher evaluation and compensation systems and how it intentionally recruits and supports a diverse teaching corps that reflects its student body. In this session, legislators and resource experts will discuss how the General Assembly can support the teacher workforce in the 2022 session.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tequilla Brownie, Executive Vice President, Strategy, Policy & Community Coalitions, TNTP <p>Resource Experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Davis Dixon, Assistant Professor, Hampton University • Rodney Robinson, Senior Advisor, Richmond Public Schools 	Old Dominion University

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3:00 – 3:15PM	Break	Old Dominion University
3:15 – 4:15PM	<p>Learning Acceleration Using Evidence-Based Interventions to Get Students on Track to Succeed</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on student learning has been severe, with students losing several months of learning since its onset. In this session, legislators and resource experts will discuss the pandemic’s impact on learning, interventions districts could implement to accelerate learning, and the role the legislature could play in those efforts.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holly Coy, Assistant Superintendent for Policy, Equity, and Communications, Virginia Department of Education <p>Resource Experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Emily Morton, Research Scientist, Northwest Evaluation Association • Dr. John B. Gordon, III, District Superintendent, Suffolk City Public Schools 	Old Dominion University
4:30 – 5:15PM	<p>Professional Perspectives How Districts are Supporting Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic</p> <p>In this session, legislators will participate in roundtable discussions with teachers, principals, and superintendents. The conversation will address how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted students, how districts innovated to meet student needs at such an unpredictable time, and what changes they would like to see in their districts and schools post-pandemic.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Cunningham, Deputy Director of State Engagement, The Hunt Institute <p>Resource Experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Aaron Spence, District Superintendent, Virginia Beach City Public Schools • Verlette White, District Superintendent, Roanoke City Public Schools • Dr. Jared Cotton, District Superintendent, Chesapeake Public Schools 	Old Dominion University
5:15 – 5:45PM	Transition & Reception	Old Dominion University

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5:45– 8:00PM	<p>Reception, Dinner, and Fireside Chat: School Funding & Federal Relief What Congressional COVID Funding Means for K-12 Schools</p> <p>The past several stimulus packages, including this year's American Rescue Plan, provide states hundreds of billions of dollars in federal relief for education. Now, state legislatures and education agencies must determine how to effectively use this relief to address education priorities. Over dinner, legislators and resource experts will discuss how the Commonwealth has spent relief dollars on education priorities to date, where to invest dollars in the coming year, and how to ensure equity in the process.</p> <p>Resource Expert:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senator Tim Kaine, Member, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, United States Senate, Virginia (2013 – Present), Former Governor of Virginia (2006 – 2010) 	Old Dominion University
Day Two: Friday December 3, 2021: Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA		
8:00 - 8:15AM	<p>Welcome & Reflection</p>	Old Dominion University
8:15 – 9:15AM	<p>Standards, Assessments, and Accountability Re-Thinking High-Stakes Testing</p> <p>Bi-partisan legislation in the 2021 session established a new assessment system that draws on through-year growth rather than a single end-of-year assessment. Legislators and resource experts will discuss how to implement this new system, the potential benefits, and drawbacks of through-year growth assessment, and the role this system could play in the Commonwealth's long-term learning recovery strategies. Additionally, legislators and resource experts will discuss other assessment-related discussions occurring in the Commonwealth, including testing reduction and performance-based assessments.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniela Doyle, Director of Strategic Initiatives, The Hunt Institute <p>Resource Experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Gregory Hutchings, District Superintendent, Alexandria City Public Schools • Dr. Will Lorie, Senior Associate, The Center for Assessment 	Old Dominion University
9:15 – 10:15AM	<p>Special Education Providing Supports and Services for Students with Disabilities</p>	Old Dominion University

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In this session, legislators and resource experts will discuss the Commonwealth’s special education landscape, how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted students with disabilities, and steps legislators can take to improve the Commonwealth’s special education system in 2022.

Moderator:

- **W. Brian McCann**, President and CEO, The Faison Center

Resource Experts:

- **Hal E. Greer**, Director, Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission
- **Sarah Sandelius**, Founder, The Ability Challenge

10:15 –
10:30AM

Break

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10:30 –
11:30AM

Postsecondary Funding | Supporting Students Through Wraparound Services

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In the 2021 General Assembly, the Commonwealth of Virginia passed the Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back (G3) Initiative, increasing access at the postsecondary level. Additionally, the General Assembly passed [House Bill 1820](#), which expands the eligibility of food stamp programs to individuals pursuing a college degree or any type of postsecondary education. In this session, legislators and resource experts will discuss how to best target funding to develop robust wraparound services for postsecondary education students.

Moderator:

- **Dr. Wil Del Pilar**, Vice President of Higher Education Policy and Practice, The Education Trust

Resource Experts:

- **Anne Holton**, Former Virginia Secretary of Education (2014 – 2016), Professor, College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University
- **Dr. Marcia Conston**, President, Tidewater Community College

11:30AM –
12:30PM

Postsecondary Attainment | Supporting Access and Completion for Adult Learners

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Virginia’s adult learners represent an important target audience for increasing credentialing, but they face a wide range of challenges when returning to a postsecondary setting. Further, adult learners experience higher education differently than traditional students, as adult learners often have full-time jobs, children, or dependents for whom they are responsible. As such, additional pathways to completion, such as short-term credentialing and career and technical education may support adult learners on their postsecondary journey.

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In this session, legislators will speak with postsecondary leaders about how best to support students and adult workers to obtain degrees and credentials.

Moderator:

- **Laura Fornash**, Senior Vice President, McGuireWoods Consulting, Former Virginia Secretary of Education (2011 – 2013)

Resource Experts:

- **Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston**, President, Norfolk State University
- **Dr. Makola Abdullah**, President, Virginia State University
- **Peter Blake**, Director, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

12:30 – 1:00PM **Closing Remarks & Optional Lunch**

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