

Presenter Bios

Scaling Deeper Learning in Virginia: A Focus on Preparing Teachers and Principals
Richmond, VA | 17-19 November, 2019

Peggie Constantino

**Director of Executive Ed.D. Programs
William and Mary School of Education**

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 @WMEExecEd



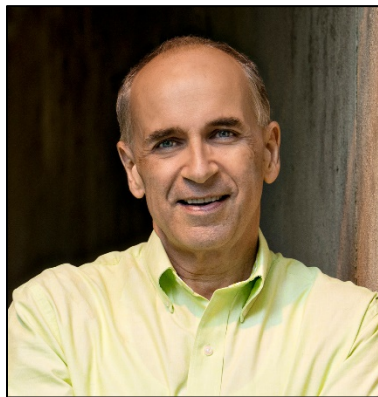
Dr. Peggie Constantino is an Associate Professor in Education Policy, Planning and Leadership and Director of the Executive Ed. D. Programs at the William & Mary School of Education. Her career in education includes classroom experience as a special educator in elementary, middle and high school settings. As a school level leader, she led the development and implementation of one of the largest International Baccalaureate Programs in North America. She has served as principal at the elementary and high school levels in both suburban and urban school systems. She also served as director of special education in Cobb County, Ga, the nation's 24th largest school system. Dr. Constantino's teaching and project work crosses doctoral and principal preparation programs with expertise in innovative leadership, design thinking, action research, equity and social justice.

Steve Constantino

**Executive Professor, Educational Policy, Planning, and Leadership Department
William and Mary School of Education**

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Leader, teacher, speaker and best-selling author Dr. Steve Constantino has a long and distinguished career in leadership and bringing innovation to educational and business organizations and is internationally recognized for his work in family and organizational engagement. Steve is a much sought-after speaker and leadership consultant because he is the rare combination of someone who can both lead and teach others how to lead.

Steve began his career as a teacher and moved through the ranks to award-winning principal and school district superintendent. At the State level, Steve served first as Chief Academic Officer and was then appointed to Acting State Superintendent by former Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe. Today, Steve continues to accept numerous invitations to speak and consult with schools, districts and business organizations around the world and is also an Executive Professor, William and Mary School of Education.

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Holly Coy

**Deputy Secretary of Education
Commonwealth of Virginia**

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Holly Coy serves as Deputy Secretary of Education for Governor Northam, a role she also served in under Governor McAuliffe. Before joining the office of the Secretary of Education, Holly served as Policy Director for then Lt. Governor Northam. Before that, she was the Director of Programs at the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; and worked in the Governmental Affairs Office of the American Bar Association in a number of capacities.

Ms. Coy earned her bachelor's degree from the University in Virginia and her master's degree from American University's School of Public Affairs. She is a graduate of the Sorenson Institute for Political Leadership and Georgetown University's Nonprofit Management Executive Certificate Program.

Gena Keller

**Former Acting Deputy Superintendent and Chief of Staff/Assistant Superintendent
Virginia Department of Education**

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Gena Keller has served students in Virginia for over 39 years in public education. She has been a teacher, counselor, home-school coordinator, administrator at the elementary, middle and high school level, district superintendent and recently retired from the Virginia Department of Education as the assistant superintendent for learning. Gena currently is the Executive Director and Owner of Students First, LLC which focuses on amplifying impact through coaching and team building. Gena is also working alongside Stephanie Krauss, special projects lead for JFF, to expand and strengthen the professional learning opportunities for educators across Virginia as they operationalize the Profile of a Virginia Graduate.

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Stephanie Krauss

Senior Director, Special Projects

Jobs for the Future (JFF)

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Stephanie Malia Krauss is director of special projects at JFF. She develops, shapes, funds, and manages cross-team and cross-strategy projects that further JFF's ability to best serve its target populations, ensuring their education and economic advancement.

Previously, Stephanie served as a senior fellow with the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, the Forum for Youth Investment and JFF. As a senior fellow, she took on various national- and state-level initiatives focusing on postsecondary credentialing, competency-based education, youth readiness, and opportunity youth. She has served as campaign director of Connecting Credentials and co-director of The Readiness Project.

In addition, Stephanie founded and served as Chief Executive Officer of Shearwater Education Foundation, where she successfully pushed for state policy change and the cultivation of partnerships to enable competency-based education and flexible learning opportunities for St. Louis City's disconnected youth, including those in foster care, coming out of the justice system, or experiencing homelessness.


One of the youngest-ever recruits to Teach For America, Stephanie began her career as a fifth-grade teacher, at age 18, servicing a mostly Latino migrant community in Phoenix, Arizona. While teaching, she spent her summers training teachers in rural and impoverished communities in East Africa.

Stephanie has been a guest commentator on PBS NewsHour, StoryCorps, and public radio. She holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Arizona State University and a master's degree in social and economic development of youth from Washington University–St. Louis.

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James Lane
State Superintendent
Virginia Department of Education

 @DrJamesLane



James Lane was appointed Virginia's 25th superintendent of public instruction by the Governor of Virginia, effective June 1, 2018. As state superintendent, Dr. Lane serves as the executive officer of the Virginia Department of Education, which is the administrative agency for the Commonwealth's public schools. He also serves as secretary of the state Board of Education.

Prior to his appointment as the Commonwealth's chief school officer, Dr. Lane served as a division superintendent in Chesterfield County, Goochland County and Middlesex County. He was recognized as the 2017 Virginia Superintendent of the Year for his leadership in Goochland County. Dr. Lane was one of 100 superintendents in the nation selected to attend the 2014 ConnectEd Superintendents

Summit at the White House in recognition of his leadership in the use of instructional technology by his schools. In 2015, the national Data Quality Campaign awarded its annual Flashlight award to Goochland County in recognition of the division's achievements under Lane's leadership in using data to empower educators and communicate with parents and the public.

As the Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Lane leads the Commonwealth's *Virginia is for Learners* initiative — a commitment to ensure that every public school student is ready to thrive after graduation. Education is the most effective tool to reduce poverty, address social challenges, and sustain economic advancement for all Virginians. The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is prioritizing equity and building a broad coalition of support that represents stakeholders from across the Commonwealth to ensure every student graduates with life ready skills that include the 5 C's — critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, collaboration and citizenship. Under Dr. Lane's leadership, the Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that students and families, regardless of their race, economic status, or native language, feel welcome in school and have access to the resources they need to succeed.

Dr. Lane holds a doctorate in education from the University of Virginia, a master's degree in school administration from North Carolina State University, and master's and bachelor's degrees in teaching from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Lane and his wife, Sarah, are the parents of two elementary school students in Chesterfield County.

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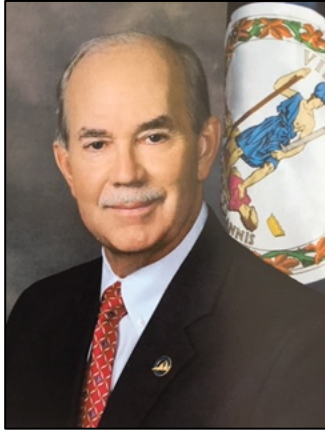
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Steve Staples

Executive Professor

William and Mary School of Education

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Dr. Steven R. Staples served as Virginia's State Superintendent of Public Instruction from 2014-2018. During that term of service, he led the Commonwealth through a series of reforms that emphasized deeper learning initiatives and innovative classroom practices to support "the 5 C's" in the Virginia Profile of a Graduate. Prior to serving in that role, he had a long career as a teacher, school administrator and local school superintendent in Virginia. He was named the Virginia Superintendent of the Year in 1997.

Steve received his Bachelor and Master's degrees from The College of William & Mary and a Doctorate of Education from Virginia Tech.

In addition to recognition as the Virginia Superintendent of the Year, he has received numerous honors that include the William & Mary Kappa Delta Pi Distinguished Educator Award, the UCEA Excellence in Educational Leadership Award, the Jo Lynn DeMary Achievement Award, and the Robert Lynn Cannaday Lifetime Achievement Award. He currently serves in a part-time role as an Executive Professor at William & Mary and is married with two married daughters and two grandchildren.

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Atif Qarni

Secretary of Education

Virginia Department of Education

 @VASecofEdu



Prior to his appointment as Governor Northam's Secretary of Education, Atif Qarni taught at Beville Middle School in Prince William County, leading courses in civics, economics, US History, and mathematics. He also served as a GED Night School Instructor. In 2016, Atif was recognized as the Dale City Teacher of the Year.

In addition to his work as an educator, Atif is a former Sergeant of the United States Marine Corps, and was deployed to Iraq in 2003 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has also served at the state level, having been appointed by Governor Terry McAuliffe to the Small Business Commission in 2013.

Secretary Qarni holds a Bachelor's in Sociology from George Washington University as well as a Master's in History and teaching license from George Mason University.

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Leah Walker

Director, Office of Equity and Community Engagement

Virginia Department of Education

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 @LeDwalk



Resolute in her commitment to community impact, Leah has more than twenty years of public sector experience. Possessing a diverse record of service throughout the Commonwealth, Leah has worked for Mayor Dwight C. Jones' Administration in the City of Richmond, Governor Timothy M. Kaine at the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Virginia Democratic Caucus in the House of Delegates, the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus and its Foundation, Richmond City Council, and Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott.

Leah currently serves as the Director for Equity and Community Engagement at the Virginia Department of Education where she leads external relations and statewide efforts aimed at advancing education equity, closing the achievement gap, and decreasing disproportionality in student outcomes. Leah serves on the Virginia Indian Advisory Board and the Governor's Advisory Board for Service and Volunteerism and devotes her time to mentoring young women in Richmond. In 2018, Style Weekly named Leah to its annual "Power List" as one of the most influential people in education in the Richmond region.

Dedicated to disrupting structural racism, Leah utilizes communications savvy, public relations expertise, and innovative outreach tactics to galvanize support for social justice and to advance inclusive learning environments for all students.

Leah earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Hampton University, and a Master's of Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is the proud mother of two teenage daughters, Alexandra and Adriana.