

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

EDWARD AYERS is president emeritus of the University of Richmond, where he now serves as Tucker-Boatwright professor of the humanities. Previously dean of arts and sciences at the University of Virginia, where he began teaching in 1980, Ayers was named the national professor of the year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in 2003.

A historian of the American South, Ayers has written and edited 10 books. "The Promise of the New South: Life After Reconstruction" was a finalist for both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. "In the Presence of Mine Enemies: Civil War in the Heart of America" won the Bancroft Prize for distinguished writing in American history and the Beveridge Prize for the best book in English on the history of the Americas since 1492. He was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2013.

A pioneer in digital history, Ayers created "The Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War," a website that has attracted millions of users and won major prizes in the teaching of history. He serves as co-editor of the Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States at the University of Richmond's Digital Scholarship Lab and is a co-host of "BackStory With the American History Guys," a nationally syndicated radio show and podcast.

Ayers has received a presidential appointment to the National Council on the Humanities, served as a Fulbright professor, and been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He holds a B.A. from the University of Tennessee and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Yale.

PETER A. BLAKE is director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. He joined SCHEV as interim director in 2011 and became director in January 2012. Mr. Blake previously worked at SCHEV as an associate director overseeing higher education analyses in the areas of faculty and staff compensation, funding policies, academic libraries, distance learning and instructional technology, and student financial aid.

Blake left SCHEV in 1999 to serve as the legislative fiscal analyst for the Virginia General Assembly's House Appropriations Committee. From 2002-2006 he was deputy secretary of education and secretary of education under Governor Mark Warner. He later served as the vice chancellor of workforce development services for the Virginia Community College System, where he led policy and budget development for state and federal workforce programs.

In July 2015, Blake was elected chair of the executive committee of SHEEO (State Higher Education Executive Officers), the national association for chief executives of statewide governing, policy and coordinating boards of postsecondary education. He had served previously as SHEEO's treasurer and chair of its budget and finance subcommittee. He holds B.A. and M.S. degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University.

COURTNEY BROWN is the director of organizational performance and evaluation at the Lumina Foundation. In this role she works across the foundation to provide strategic direction using evidence from evaluation, data and metrics. She oversees the evaluative work on the development, outcomes, and impact of the work the foundation conducts. In addition Dr. Brown manages the performance measurement system of metrics the Foundation uses to

measure progress toward GOAL 2025, to increase the proportion of Americans with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by the year 2025. Brown is a Charlottesville, Virginia, native. She received her B.A. from James Madison University and M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

BILLY K. CANNADAY JR. is president of the Board of Education. He was appointed to fill an unexpired term in December 2009 by Governor Tim Kaine, and was reappointed by Governor Robert McDonnell in 2011. He was appointed to a second term by Governor Terry McAuliffe in 2015. Cannaday was elected board president July 2015.

Cannaday recently retired as the dean of the School of Continuing and Professional Studies at the University of Virginia. Prior to joining UVa, he served as Virginia's superintendent of public instruction from 2006-2008. A career educator for more than 30 years, Cannaday has worked in elementary, middle and high schools and was superintendent in two of the commonwealth's largest school divisions.

Cannaday received his doctorate in educational administration and bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He earned his master's in educational administration from Hampton University.

ELIZABETH CREAMER is adviser for workforce development, Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade for Governor Terry McAuliffe. In that role she works across secretariats, state agencies and the two houses of the General Assembly on issues such as driving workforce credential attainment rates that will grow Virginia's economy by expanding a highly trained, competitive workforce.

Creamer had served as the director of education and workforce development for the Office of Governor Robert McDonnell, acting as a liaison between the secretariats of education and commerce and trade. Prior to that role, she was an assistant vice chancellor of workforce programs and career pathways for the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) where she was instrumental in the development and implementation of such statewide programs as Career Coaches and the On Ramp program for dislocated workers. She also was part of the cross-agency team that formed the Governor's Career Pathways Work Group and created Virginia's Career Pathways Strategic Plan.

Creamer also has held workforce and academic administrative positions at Thomas Nelson and Paul D. Camp community colleges. She holds a B.A. from Christopher Newport University and an M.A. from Old Dominion University.

TRESSIE McMILLAN COTTOM is an assistant professor of sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University and a faculty associate at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard.

Dr. Cottom's current research examines how we learn for work in the new economy. That includes thinking about academic capitalism, labor market correspondence, for-profit and online credentials, and media interactions. She lectures and publishes widely. Currently, she is a contributing editor with Dissent and a contributing writer with The Atlantic. She has been invited to speak on issues of education, race, gender, social movements and inequality at the White House, MIT, the Carter G. Woodson Institute at the University of Virginia, Duke, UGA,

GSU, University of California-Irvine as well as national and international public policy agencies in Canada, New Zealand and across the United States. Her public writing has appeared in *Inside Higher Education*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Slate*, *Dissent Magazine*, and *The New York Times*. Additionally, she has appeared on NPR and "Dan Rather Reports."

In 2014, she was selected as a Ph.D. intern at the Microsoft Research Network's Social Media Collective in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is also a former research fellow at the Center for Poverty Research at University of California-Davis. She earned her Ph.D. in sociology from Emory University in Atlanta with a case study of the political economy of for-profit colleges in the era of financialized U.S. higher education.

ANNE HOLTON is Virginia's secretary of education and a lifelong advocate for children and families in Virginia. After graduating with a B.A. from Princeton and a law degree from Harvard, Holton worked as a legal-aid lawyer serving low-income families. She served as a juvenile and domestic relations district court judge from 1998 until 2005 when her husband, Tim Kaine, was elected governor of Virginia.

As Virginia's first lady, Holton championed a successful initiative to secure permanent family connections for more foster youth. She later served as a consultant at the Annie E. Casey Foundation on foster care systems reform, with a focus on judiciary issues and preventing unnecessary out-of-home placements of youth due to complex behavioral issues.

In 2008, Holton worked with the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education to establish the Great Expectations program, which works through campus coaches based on community college campuses to improve access to and success in higher education for Virginia's foster youth and alumni. She served as the program's director in 2013.

Holton attended public schools in Roanoke, Richmond and Fairfax County. With her family she helped integrate the Richmond Public Schools in 1970. She has been an active PTA member and volunteer at six Richmond public schools, where her children were educated. Holton served on the Richmond Public Schools Education Foundation Board, 2010-2012, and on the Voices for Virginia Children Board, 2010-2013. She also has served on the Advisory Board to Youth-Nex, the UVa Center to Promote Effective Youth Development at the Curry School of Education.

Holton is the recipient of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Life Award of Distinction and the Richmond YWCA Outstanding Woman in Law award among other honors. She and her husband (now U.S. Senator Tim Kaine) have three adult children and reside in Richmond.

BLAKE JOHNSON serves as Complete College America's communications director. He manages the organization's media and communications strategy, oversees the production of reports and major publications, and serves as the organization's primary spokesman. Additionally, he manages a portfolio of states as they work with CCA to implement strategies that boost college completion rates.

Prior to joining Complete College America, Johnson served as a senior advisor for a member of the U.S. Congress. He has also served as a speechwriter, on-the-record spokesman, and policy advisor to candidates and elected officials at the local, state and federal levels of government. In

addition to his work at CCA, Johnson is a member of the Indianapolis City Council, having been elected in November 2015.

JIMMIE MASSIE was first elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in November 2007 and he presently serves on the Appropriations, Education and Rules committees. He chairs the Elementary and Secondary Appropriations subcommittee and the Higher Education policy subcommittee. Also, he is a member of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, the Medicaid Innovation Reform Commission and the Commission on Employee Retirement Security and Pension Reform. Delegate Massie's areas of public policy expertise are business, state budget and education. He has been a leader in the Virginia School Choice movement for the last four years with the passage of a tuition tax credit bill.

Massie and his wife, Elizabeth, have lived in Richmond for more than 30 years. They have raised four children together, all now of adult age. He understands the importance of the right and best education for the successful future of our children. Massie was raised in Richmond and is a product of Collegiate School (1976) and the University of Virginia (1980).

G. GILMER MINOR III is chair of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and chairman emeritus of Owens & Minor Inc., a \$9 billion, Fortune 200 national distributor of medical and surgical supplies as well as a healthcare supply-chain management company.

Minor is a member of the Virginia Business Higher Education Council as well as the Virginia Business Council. In May 2010 he was appointed to Governor McDonnell's Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innovation and Investment. He also serves on the board of governors of St. Christopher's School and was president of the VMI board of visitors.

Minor received the United Negro College Fund's Flame Bearer of Education Award in 1998. He was recognized as Virginia Industrialist of the Year in 2001 and inducted into the 2003 Greater Richmond Business Hall of Fame. In 2004, Minor received the Virginia Region Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award and the B'nai B'rith National Healthcare Award. In 2008, the VMI Foundation awarded him their highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, for service to VMI. In 2009, Minor received the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Award of Excellence. In 2011, Minor was inducted into the VMI Athletic Hall of Fame – Football and Baseball.

He is a 1963 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute with a B.A. in history. In 1966, he received his MBA from The Colgate Darden School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia. Minor is married to the former Charlotte Major of Portsmouth, Virginia, and they have two children and three grandchildren.

SHARON MORRISSEY serves as the vice chancellor for academic services and research in the Virginia Community College System, where she is responsible for state-level coordination of academic programs, student success initiatives, research and reporting, and related policy review and professional development. Dr. Morrissey is leading initiatives to increase student success outcomes across the VCCS including grant funding for a statewide Student Success Center to accelerate efforts to improve persistence and completion.

Prior to joining the VCCS, Morrissey served as the executive vice president for programs and chief academic officer for the North Carolina Community College System. Morrissey also led a revision of NC's statewide articulation agreement between the 58 community colleges and 16 public universities to ensure transfer students' success.

Morrissey serves as an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Education Leadership, Policy and Human Development at North Carolina State University. In 2006, she received the Department's I.E. Ready Distinguished Graduate Award, and in 2014 she received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Morrissey also has served as president of Richmond (N.C.) Community College, vice president for instruction at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, and vice president for academic and student services at Fayetteville Technical Community College. She began her community college career as an English instructor at Central Carolina Community College.

MICHAEL RAO became the fifth president of Virginia Commonwealth University and the VCU Health System in 2009 and has continued to cement VCU's place among the nation's premier urban, public research universities. Under the Quest for Distinction strategic plan, Rao is piloting strategic efforts focused on academic quality, student success and research that foster regional economic development and improve lives.

Under Rao's leadership, VCU's place among national research universities continues to rise, with 32 graduate and first-professional programs ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, including the nation's No. 1 programs in sculpture and nurse anesthesia. He also has overseen one of the largest-ever expansions of VCU's master site plan, including the Grace Street living-learning corridor, the James W. and Frances G. McGlothlin Medical Education Center, the Academic Learning Commons and an expansion of the James Branch Cabell Library.

Rao has been in higher education administration for more than 20 years, beginning in California in 1992, when he became president of Mission College and was, for a time, the youngest college president in the nation. He went on to serve as chancellor of Montana State University-Northern and president of Central Michigan University.

Rao holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of South Florida and a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Florida. He and his wife, Monica, a watercolorist and graphic designer, have two sons.

STEVEN R. STAPLES was appointed Virginia's 24th superintendent of public instruction by Governor Terry McAuliffe. As superintendent, Dr. Staples serves as the executive officer of the Virginia Department of Education.

He began his career in public education in 1976 in Prince George County where he taught elementary, middle and high school students, and also served as an assistant principal for instruction. In 1985, Staples became principal of Hopewell High School and three years later moved to Montgomery County as assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. He served – beginning in 1991 – as division superintendent in York County for 16 years.

During his tenure in York County, Staples implemented a variety of innovative programs including magnet programs in fine arts, math, science and technology, and a charter school program linking academic standards to licensure competencies in career/technical fields. In 1997, he was selected as the Virginia Superintendent of the Year. Prior to his appointment as the commonwealth's chief school officer, Staples served for nearly two years as the executive director of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, was a faculty member at the College of William & Mary from 2008-2012 and worked in various capacities in four Virginia school divisions.

Staples received his doctorate in education administration and supervision from Virginia Tech, a master's degree in education administration and supervision, as well as a bachelor's degree in history and English from the College of William & Mary.

WALTER STOSCH recently retired from representing nearly 200,000 residents in the 12th Senatorial District. First serving as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, Senator Stosch was elected to the Senate of Virginia in 1991. He was the only CPA serving in the General Assembly.

Stosch has been a leader on numerous issues impacting all Virginians. He led tax reform issues including removal of taxation on Social Security and groceries, and his legislation over the years has created thousands of jobs and made college more accessible and affordable. He is a strong advocate for K-12 and higher education and he was chief patron of Virginia's innovative Public-Private Partnership Act. He has been ranked in numerous years as the most effective member of the Senate and Legislator of the Year.

Stosch is a lifelong resident of Virginia, born in Richmond County, and currently resides in Henrico County. He is married to the former Eleanor Herbert of Westmoreland County. They have two children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

TERESA A. SULLIVAN is the University of Virginia's eighth president. Since taking office in 2010, Sullivan has prepared UVa to tackle the serious challenges in higher education related to cost containment, affordability, student-debt reduction, faculty compensation, and the emergence of online education.

In spring 2013, Sullivan led the university to completion of its \$3 billion capital campaign, and quickly announced plans to raise financial support for three strategic priorities: retaining and recruiting top faculty, restoring the university's Jeffersonian Grounds, and providing needy students with scholarships.

The author or coauthor of six books and many scholarly articles, Sullivan most recently has focused her research on measuring productivity in higher education. Sullivan came to UVa from the University of Michigan, where she was provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. Prior to her work at Michigan, Ms. Sullivan was executive vice chancellor for academic affairs for the University of Texas System and a faculty member at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a graduate of Michigan State University's James Madison College, and earned her doctoral degree in sociology from the University of Chicago. She is married to Douglas Laycock, the Robert E. Scott Distinguished Professor of Law at UVa. They have two adult sons.