

Speaker Name	Speaker Title and Organization	Speaker BIO
Lisa Ann Abernathey	<p>Education Specialist - McKinney-Vento</p> <p>Henrico County Public Schools</p>	<p>Lisa Ann has served students who are at-risk in Henrico County Public schools since 2010. The 2025-2026 school year marks her ninth year serving students and families under McKinney-Vento. During her with the McKinney-Vento team, she has focused on streamlining data collection, developing a robust program of professional development - including a course on ensuring equity in the classroom for students experiencing housing instability and created the McKinney-Vento Learning Library to serve as a resource for school personnel to help ensure compliance. Along with her team, she is dedicated to increasing attendance and engagement for students experiencing housing instability. She was a member of the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) Advisory Panel and currently serves on the National Customer Advisory Board for EverDriven Transportation.</p> <p>Lisa Ann is a servant at heart, a life-long learner and is passionate about leveling the playing field for students whose housing situations leave them vulnerable for falling behind in school. She is a Suma Cum Laude graduate of the Robertson School of Media and Culture of Virginia Commonwealth University, has completed work towards a master's in special education at Liberty University, and is a certified trauma professional. For their approach to student engagement and attendance, the team with which she serves is a two-time award recipient from the National Association of Counties and had their work highlighted by Attendance Works. Lisa Ann has shared about her team's vision and work with local, state, and national audiences. She is a native of Richmond, VA where she currently resides.</p>
Holly Angle	<p>McKinney-Vento Specialist</p> <p>Loudoun County Public Schools</p>	<p>Holly Angle is an educator and social services professional with over 15 years of experience in child welfare, family support, and educational equity. She currently serves as the McKinney-Vento Specialist for Loudoun County Public Schools, where she leads district-wide efforts to support students experiencing homelessness through compliance, collaboration, and program oversight. Previously, Holly held leadership roles with Loudoun County Department of Family Services and worked in child welfare and youth services in Michigan. She holds a BSW from Saginaw Valley State University and an MS in Organizational Leadership with an MBA Certificate from Shenandoah University, and is passionate about removing barriers to student success.</p>

Sarah Boies	<p>Supervisor, Outreach Services</p> <p>Loudoun County Public Schools</p>	<p>Sarah Boies is a seasoned educational leader and community advocate with over 16 years of experience in education. Currently serving as the Supervisor of Outreach Services for Loudoun County Public Schools, Sarah oversees a team of 95 family liaisons across 100 schools, 125+ interpreters and translators, and leads initiatives supporting students experiencing economic hardship or facing other barriers to education. Sarah oversees the division's Community School initiative and leads a variety of strategies to support meaningful family and community engagement across the division.</p> <p>Prior to her work in K-12 education, Sarah held multiple leadership roles at Laurel Ridge Community College, including Director of Student Support Programs. Sarah holds a B.A from James Madison University, and an M.S. and Ed.D. from Shenandoah University. A passionate advocate for equity and access, Sarah brings a deep commitment to empowering underserved communities through education, collaboration, and innovation.</p>
Tomika L. Brown	<p>Director of All Virginia</p> <p>University of Virginia</p>	<p>Tomika L. Brown (she/her) leads strategic efforts in strengthening relationships between the University of Virginia and high-need high schools and communities across the Commonwealth, with the goal of increase access to educational opportunity. She has nearly two decades of experience leading education access initiatives that expand opportunity for students from marginalized and underserved communities. A proud graduate of the University of Virginia (B.A. in History), she began her career as a history teacher in Richmond Public Schools before moving into college access and career readiness leadership roles in Pennsylvania, Washington, DC, and Virginia.</p> <p>Her work has spanned coordinating academic and financial aid support for students experiencing housing instability, directing large-scale scholarship and internship programs, and cultivating partnerships across schools, community-based organizations, and state agencies. Before joining UVA Enrollment, Tomika served as Director of ECMC's The College Place-Richmond and Alexandria, where she led statewide projects to advance postsecondary readiness. She also holds graduate degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Pennsylvania. She serves on the Board of Directors for Big Brothers Big Sisters Services and Project HOPE Advisory Board, mentors through Shineforth's Project LIFE Foster Youth Program, and is an active member of the Virginia College Access Network (VCAN) and the Potomac & Chesapeake Association for College Admission Counseling (PCACAC).</p>

Renee DeVall	Transportation Coordinator Charlottesville City Schools	Renee DeVall is the Transportation Coordinator at Charlottesville City Schools since 2023. She retired from Albemarle County Pupil Transportation in 2023 after 24 years of service starting out as a school bus driver and working up to the Routing and Planning Manager.
Brittany Everett	Postsecondary Access and Success Specialist, Virginia Department of Education / State Council of Higher Education for Virginia	Brittany Everett serves as a Postsecondary Access and Success Specialist with the Virginia Department of Education and State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, where she leads statewide initiatives that expand equitable access to college and career opportunities.
Marsha Granderson	Title IV Coordinator Virginia Department of Education	Marsha Granderson is the Title IV coordinator. In that capacity, she offers policy interpretation and compliance oversight for the Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants and Title IV, Part B, Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers. She coordinates the 21st CCLC annual grant competition process and provides technical assistance, reviews applications and monitoring reports, and offers programmatic guidance, fiscal oversight, and technical assistance both programs to school division and community-based organizations
Laura Hackett	Assistant EHCY State Coordinator Project HOPE-Virginia	Laura Hackett is the Assistant State Coordinator for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth in Virginia and serves as the state point of contact for foster care educational stability. Laura is a school psychologist by training and has over nine years of experience in homeless education. Laura has worked alongside children and families experiencing homelessness in non-profit and local government in various capacities along the continuum of care.
Malora Horn	McKinney-Vento Program Coordinator Roanoke City Public Schools	Malora has been with Roanoke City Public Schools since 2003 as the coordinator for the McKinney-Vento Program. Malora's professional career has always been centered around working with youth and families. Prior to working at RCPS, she spent over 10 years as a mental health clinician and case manager with the local CSB.

		<p>She obtained her B.S. Psychology from Virginia Tech and a M.S. Criminal Justice, with a concentration of the study in domestic violence. Malora serves on various advisory boards in the community as well as the state advisory council for Project HOPE-VA.</p>
Alex Javna	<p>School Social Work Specialist</p> <p>Virginia Department of Education</p>	<p>Dr. Alex Javna is the School Social Work Specialist in the Office of Behavioral Health and Student Safety at the Virginia Department of Education. Prior to her current role, Alex worked as a school social worker and as a middle school teacher. She is also an adjunct instructor for the Master of Social Work program at Virginia Commonwealth University, teaching courses on school social work and human behavior. Alex is passionate about improving student attendance, tiered systems of support, and school social work.</p>
Kate Miller	<p>Training & Communications Specialist</p> <p>Project HOPE-Virginia</p>	<p>Kate Miller is the Training and Communications Specialist for Project HOPE-Virginia. Kate creates sustainable training tools and communications strategies for liaisons, educators, and community partners, empowering them to effectively identify students experiencing homelessness and connect them to needed supports. Kate works to develop creative approaches for raising awareness across the state around the issues faced by students and families experiencing homelessness. Currently, she is helping to craft communications for various key audiences with targeted messaging across social media platforms. Additionally, Kate facilitates Communities of Practice where McKinney-Vento liaisons across Virginia can share best practices and troubleshoot barriers they commonly face. Kate is the editor of Project HOPE-VA's quarterly newsletter and the host of the Project HOPE-VA Podcast. Kate is most passionate about telling the stories of liaisons, educators, and community partners who have had a profound impact on the lives of students experiencing homelessness. Prior to her current role, Kate worked as an instructional designer for KFC Corporation, a Consular Assistant in U.S. Embassy Khartoum, Sudan, and an ESL instructor in Bangkok, Thailand.</p>
Bryanda Monge-Vega	<p>Family Resource Specialist</p> <p>Healthy Families, Rappahannock Area</p>	<p>Healthy Families Rappahannock Area provides expecting parents and families who have recently welcomed a baby with the support, community resources, and partnerships they need to thrive. By helping families identify their strengths and build confidence, HFRA empowers parents to create safe, nurturing environments where their children can reach their fullest physical and cognitive development. No family should have to navigate the early stages of parenthood alone—and HFRA ensures they never have to.</p>

Cindy Moussavou	Deputy Director of Programs Housing Families First	<p>Cindy joined the Housing Families First direct services team in 2014 providing families in emergency shelter and community housing programs with housing case management support. She became the first Program Director for HFF in 2018 and created strategies in developing critical time intervention models of housing counseling as a direct means for housing opportunities and access to stabilization financial assistance to be a proven path to ending homelessness.</p> <p>Throughout her social work career, Cindy has combined 15 years of service within the housing and homelessness sector with families and single adults in emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, and transitional housing programs. Over the past year as Deputy Director of Programs, she continues working to assist HFF in the regional partnership efforts to manage, pilot, implement, and further expand HFF programs. Cindy aims to enrich organizational growth through sustainable staffing solutions and hopes to empower, encourage, and inspire service providers in their work to functionally end homelessness.</p>
Michelle Patton Swisher	School Social Worker / McKinney Vento Coordinator Spotsylvania County Schools	<p>With over 17 years of experience serving vulnerable populations, Michelle Patton Swisher, is a dedicated Licensed Clinical Social Worker with Spotsylvania County Public Schools. Specializing in trauma-informed care, Michelle is certified in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and has spent her career advocating for and supporting students and families navigating complex life circumstances.</p> <p>In addition to clinical work, she serves as both the McKinney-Vento Coordinator and Foster Care Liaison ensuring that students experiencing homelessness or foster care receive equitable access to education, stability, and support services. Michelle is passionate about building systems of care that uplift underserved communities and create safe, inclusive learning environments for all children.</p>

Patricia Popp	<p>EHCY State Coordinator</p> <p>Project HOPE - Virginia</p>	<p>Patricia A. Popp, Ph.D. is Virginia's state coordinator for the education of homeless children and youth, a clinical associate professor at the William & Mary School of Education, and a liaison to Virginia's Department of Social Services for educational stability of students in foster care. She received her Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Planning from William & Mary, her M.Ed. in Learning Disabilities from Virginia Commonwealth University, and her B.S. in Elementary and Special Education from Boston University. Her research interests include students experiencing homelessness and high mobility and students with disabilities. Her publications include Students on the Move and Reading on the Go for NCHE and West Meets East for ASCD. She has presented 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 and the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY). Pat is the recipient of the 2024 NAEHCY Sandra M. Neese Lifetime Achievement Award.</p>
Jamie Porter	<p>GEAR UP Regional Manager</p> <p>State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV)</p>	<p>With over a decade of dedicated experience in counseling and college access, Jamie has effectively empowered students to navigate their educational journeys successfully. As a seasoned professional, she has served as School Counselor, Virginia College Advising Corps Site Supervisor and GEAR UP Virginia Regional Manager, contributing to the growth and development of countless individuals. Her passion lies in cultivating a culture of higher education and supporting students' career aspirations.</p>
Kristin Riddick	<p>Senior Manager of Community Outreach and Housing Programs</p> <p>Housing Families First</p>	<p>Kristin joined the team at Housing Families First as a case manager in 2018, and discovered a passion for working with households experiencing homelessness. In her current role as Senior Manager of Community Outreach and Housing Programs, she supports the Rapid Rehousing, Key Hunters, and Bringing Families Home school partnership programs by providing guidance to the case management team, managing private and public grants, establishing and leveraging inter-agency partnerships, and maintaining agency standards for data, files, and best practices. Kristin enjoys meeting broader community needs through building up innovative programs to serve underserved client populations, collaborating with regional partners, and through policy work as chair of the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care System Policy and Process Committee.</p> <p>Kristin holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from James Madison University and earned her Master of Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is certified as a Homeless Specialty Housing Counselor by the Virginia Association of Housing</p>

		Counselors. While she loves her job, her most important work is raising her three future JMU Dukes. When she has time, she enjoys reading, making music, and cultivating her green thumb.
Susan Salvucci	Tutoring Coordinator Fairfax County Public Schools	With over 35 years of dedicated service to the community, she is a passionate educator and advocate committed to supporting student success. She has been with Fairfax County Public Schools Homeless Liaison Office since 2013 where she specializes in supporting homeless unaccompanied high school seniors as they navigate the path toward graduation, and post-secondary success. She provides support and resources that include addressing basic needs, navigating the college admissions cycle, and securing financial aid through the fafsa and scholarship resources. By maintaining ongoing check-ins throughout the school year, she offers dedicated mentorship to help vulnerable students to transition into their next chapter.
Tyler Thompson	Family and Community Support Specialist Frederick County Public Schools	Born and raised in Winchester, VA. He received his Bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech, and his Master's degree from WVU. He has worked over 35 years serving and advocating for our youth in the educational field, of which 25 years has been spent at Frederick County Public Schools in Winchester, VA. He has served as the FCPS' Homeless and Fostering Connections Liaison for the past 12 years. He has served on various community boards such as: The Shenandoah Alliance for Residences, Healthy Families of the Northern Shenandoah Valley, The Judges Youth Alliance, Shenandoah Valley COC and Aids Response Effort.
Dr. Alex Wagaman	Associate Professor VCU, School of Social Work	Alex Wagaman is an associate professor in the School of Social Work at VCU and the coordinator of the National Youth Homelessness Partnership. Alex has engaged in research and advocacy to prevent and end youth homelessness at the local, state and national levels.
Paige Walters	McKinney-Vento Liaison Montgomery County Public Schools	Paige is in her third year as a McKinney Vento Liaison but has been with Montgomery County Public Schools for 20 years, eleven as a school counselor and eight as as Tiered Intervention Specialist. She graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Management and got her masters in Counseling from Radford University.

Rachel Wheeler	<p>Coordinator of Student Support Services</p> <p>Caroline County Public Schools</p>	<p>Mrs. Rachel Wheeler is serving in her second year as Coordinator of Student Support Services for Caroline County Public Schools. In this position she oversees school counseling, social-emotional learning, mental health supports and special student populations.</p> <p>Mrs. Wheeler has served in public school education for 16 years as a school counselor, director of school counseling and as an assistant middle school principal. Within CCPS she has served as leader of the CARE team, member of the CTE advisory group, budget advisory and a strategic planning focus group. Mrs. Wheeler is an active member in the Virginia School Counselor Association with the professional development team.</p> <p>Mrs. Wheeler earned her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Bryan College in Dayton, TN. Her Masters is in Counselor Education from Virginia Commonwealth University, where she also earned a post-master's certificate in administration and supervision.</p>
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