

The Virginia Black History, Juneteenth

Father's Day Gala



Theme: Black Health & Wellness

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Mission

The mission of the Virginia Black History Month Association (VaBHMA) is to provide community activities which highlight the positive achievements of African Americans through the art of dance, music, theater, and education.

Vision

The vision of the VaBHMA is to be the premier event in the Northern Virginia area where people of all different cultures, backgrounds and races can network, educate and celebrate the rich heritage of African American history.

Structure

VaBHMA is located in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Association operates as local chapter branches to encourage each Virginia City to Commemorate, Educate and Celebrate African American History.



VaBHMA Directors

Prayer Breakfast Coordinator

Tanya Alexander

Scholarship Team

Stacey Burnard, Xavier Richardson, Lucretia
Starnes, Sylvester Rainey, Dr. Sherry Springs,
Darrlynn Franklin

VIP Greeters

Jon Newell, Donald Craig
Donna Coursey, LaShunda Carter

Sponsorship/Partnerships

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NOVA Annandale Black Student Alliance

Student Escort Coordinator

Pamela Lamar

Security Team

Eugene Kinard, Bill Hagerman, Thomas Williams

Entertainment Coordinators

Carolyn Stewart, LaFaye Grooms

Dinner/Pageant Coordinator

Betty Banks

Community Outreach

Nichole King-Campbell

VaBHMA 2023 Planning Directors

Cheryl Johnson, Darrlynn Franklin,
Shelly Ridgeway Betz

Meeting Coordinator

Karen Graves

GLAM Coordinator

Shakeita Collins, Danielle Wilson

Vendor Coordinator

Redeema Rock

VaBHMA PRESIDENT

William Jones

VaBHMA Treasurers

Cheryl Johnson, Donna Coursey

VaBHMA Chief of Staff

VaBHMA Vice-President Robert Hall,
VaBHMA Vice-President Donna Coursey,

Ticket Sales & Seating Coordinator

Debra Graham

VIP Coordinator

Catrina Upshaw

Keynote Speaker Coordinator

Dr. Susan Williams

Quantico Chapter President

Lavonne Robinson

Media Coordinator

Felisha Williams Battle

Guest of Honor Coordinators

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Bonita Patillo, Pam Nephew

Education Directors

Eugene Williams, Pamela Nephew, Larry
Marks, Sr.

Marketing Director

Yvonne Reed-Carlock

Broom Jumping Coordinator

Angele Covington, Lisa Donald

Decorators

Jennifer Stith, Wanda Hill Warren

Membership Coordinator

Tangie Phair



President's Welcome

Greetings and welcome to the 2022 Virginia Black History, Juneteenth, Father's Day Gala! I am sure it feels different celebrating Black History during the month of June. It was not until we were having problems galvanizing the community during the month of February when the COVID numbers were high and the winter cold made it even worst. It was then that we began looking for a new date on the calendar to celebrate the sacrifice of our ancestors.

Almost immediately the thought came to mind that we should move the date to June.

Remembering the nation is now celebrating Juneteenth as a national holiday!

We later discovered that June 19th was also Father's Day. Being a father of five children I thought the idea was great to move it during a time when the nation was not only recognizing the contribution of Fathers but also during the commemoration of when slavery ended in the United States.

We are honored to have Mr. Vincent Tucker who is a direct descendant of William Tucker, one of the first children born in the Virginia colony in 1624 when slavery in the United States was still in its infancy. I look forward to having my children and I take a picture with Mr. Tucker who may be the only African American in the United States that can trace their lineage back to the Virginia Colony.

There is another group within our midst that I would be remised if I did not recognize their contributions. They are those that work within the medical community, especially the Nurses that have joined us tonight.

While most of us have been working within the safety of our home offices these individuals have been on the front lines of this pandemic for the past two years.

Many of my friends complain of having to wear a mask while attending different social activities, while the medical community has been wearing masks for years before the pandemic began. They work tirelessly in the midst of those who have confirmed cases of COVID while we operate within the safety of our homes.

Tonight, if you see anyone who has been identified as someone working in the medical community, then offer a kind handshake (or fist pump) for their unwavering dedication to the well-being of our friends and family members in hospitals.

Did I mention already that I am the father of five kids? Maybe I should say adults because they are all grown, moved out, and living on their own. A few have married and started their own families.

Yet, when I look back on my life and career, I cannot think of a more exciting time in my life than my time of being a father for the first time.

I consider it to have been one of my greatest accomplishments in life.

To all the fathers in the audience today, Happy Father's Day! If you have not discovered it yet, there is no greater responsibility in life and no greater achievement you will ever accomplish other than being a father.

And I have learned that you do not have to birth a child to be their father. If you feed them long enough, they begin to look like you and take on your mannerisms. (smile)

So tonight, sit back, eat well and enjoy the wonderful evening we have planned for you and your family as we recognize the many accomplishments of African Americans past and present.

William "Bill" Jones
President, Virginia Black History Month Association

Presidential Proclamation

Each February, National Black History Month serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder that Black history is American history, Black culture is American culture, and Black stories are essential to the ongoing story of America — our faults, our struggles, our progress, and our aspirations. Shining a light on Black history today is as important to understanding ourselves and growing stronger as a Nation as it has ever been. That is why it is essential that we take time to celebrate the immeasurable contributions of Black Americans, honor the legacies and achievements of generations past, reckon with centuries of injustice, and confront those injustices that still fester today.

Our Nation was founded on an idea: that all of us are created equal and deserve to be treated with equal dignity throughout our lives. It is a promise we have never fully lived up to but one that we have never, ever walked away from. The long shadows of slavery, Jim Crow, and redlining — and the blight of systemic racism that still diminishes our Nation today — hold America back from reaching our full promise and potential. But by facing those tragedies openly and honestly and working together as one people to deliver on America's promise of equity and dignity for all, we become a stronger Nation — a more perfect version of ourselves.

Across the generations, countless Black Americans have demonstrated profound moral courage and resilience to help shape our Nation for the better. Today, Black Americans lead industries and movements for change, serve our communities and our Nation at every level, and advance every field across the board, including arts and sciences, business and law, health and education, and many more. In the face of wounds and obstacles older than our Nation itself, Black Americans can be seen in every part of our society today, strengthening and uplifting all of America.



Joseph. R. Biden Jr.

Vice President Harris and I are deeply committed to advancing equity, racial justice, and opportunity for Black Americans as we continue striving to realize America's founding promise. That began by building a Federal Government that looks like America: including the first Black Secretary of Defense, the first Black woman to head the Office of Management and Budget, the first Black man to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, the first Black woman to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development in more than 40 years, the first Black chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisors, a Black Ambassador representing America at the United Nations, and the first Black and South Asian Vice President in our history. We have been proud to appoint accomplished Black Americans to serve in a vast array of roles across our Administration. I am prouder still to have already nominated eight Black women to serve as Federal appellate judges — matching in just 1 year the total number of Black women who have ever served on Federal appeals courts.

My Administration has worked hard to reverse decades of underinvestment in Black communities, schools, and businesses. Both the American Rescue Plan and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are making historic investments in Black America — from vaccine shots in arms to checks in families' pockets and tax cuts for working families with children to a landmark \$5.8 billion investment in and support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

And in my first year in office, the American Rescue Plan provided the full Child Tax Credit to the lower-income families of more than 26 million children — who are disproportionately Black — and put us on a path to cut Black child poverty in half.

Presidential Proclamation

As the Infrastructure Law continues to be implemented, we will expand on that progress. Lead service lines that have contaminated the water of too many homes and schools in Black communities will be removed and replaced. We will deliver high-speed internet to every community so that no Black family is left behind in the 21st century economy.

Historic investments in public transportation will help more people in more neighborhoods get to where good jobs actually are quickly and safely. We will reconnect Black neighborhoods cut off from opportunity by highways that were built to brush them aside. Long-standing environmental injustices that have hit Black communities the hardest will be remediated. We will deliver major investments in Black entrepreneurs and small businesses — including making the Minority Business Development Agency permanent and seeding it with a record \$110 million in new resources to help level the playing field for Black businesses.

But this is only the start. To fulfill America's promise for all, we will work tirelessly in the year ahead to deliver on my Build Back Better agenda, bringing down the costs that families face on child care, housing, education, health care, prescription drugs, and so much more. We will continue to battle the COVID-19 pandemic with equity at the center of our response. We will not rest until we have protected the foundation of our democracy: the sacred right to vote. And we will fight to keep dismantling all of those structural inequities that have served as barriers for Black families for generations.

As we celebrate National Black History Month, let us all recommit ourselves to reach for that founding promise. Let us continue to fight for the equity, opportunity, and dignity to which every Black American is due in equal measure. Let us carry forward the work to build an America that is, in the beautiful words of the poet Amanda Gorman, "Bruised, but whole — benevolent, but bold, fierce, and free."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2022 as National Black History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

ISSUED ON: January 31, 2022
Presidential Actions

Opening Remarks

Jada Thornton

Community Advocate. Life-long Learner. Corporate Philanthropist.

Jada is a Social Impact Professional. As Vice President, Corporate Citizenship Manager, she is responsible for a national philanthropic portfolio that covers TD Bank's entire footprint. In this seat, two of her focus areas include eliminating barriers of isolation for targeted members of society and elevating the voices of the unheard in the BIPOC creative community. Representing TD's philanthropic platform, the TD Ready Commitment, Jada serves as an ambassador for the bank's interconnected drivers of change.

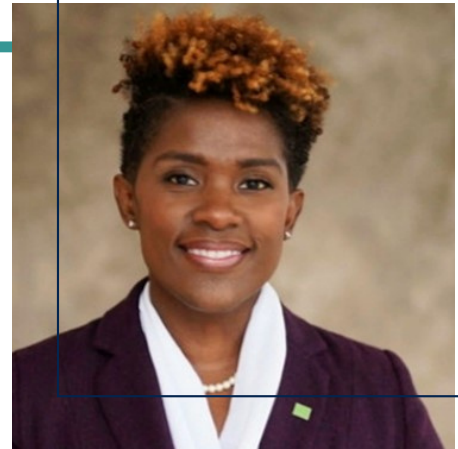
Enhanced with 14 years of bank leadership, Jada's background includes Retail and Small Business banking and lending experience. From serving

the affluent to the underserved, she has successfully led teams and served as a liaison for various capacities throughout the metropolitan DMV area.

Jada's heart of service further extends to her board membership roles. She has served (and is serving) on a few boards in the local community most recently adding The Arc of Prince George's County.

With a gift to build relationships and a genuine desire to see individuals and organizations in a better position in life, Jada is also known for facilitating progressive financial literacy workshops. These sessions are just one avenue in which she demonstrates how easily she builds rapport and communicates across educational and cultural boundaries.

Believing that learning is a life-long journey, Jada holds a BSBA in Marketing and an MBA in Organizational Development. Having a goal of "improving life" for all, one of Jada's favorite quotes by Dorothy Heights is also a guiding light when she approaches her work, "We have to improve life, not just for those who have the most skills and those who know how to manipulate the system. But also, for and with those who often have so much to give but never get the opportunity".



Singing: National Anthem

Mr. Follette

Lysle S. Follette, IV, is a 17-year-old Baritone with the prestigious Takoma Academy Camerata under the direction of Ms. Lulu Mwangi Mupfumbu.

Lysle's love affair with music began at an early age when he was a second-grader and a featured soloist in his school's Christmas Play which can still be found making the rounds on YouTube. In the summer of 2015, Lysle performed at the General Conference session of the Seventh-Day Adventist church in San Antonio, Texas with an estimate of 65,000 people in attendance. (Spectrum Magazine, 2015)

Later that summer, Lysle recorded a number of songs for the "Kids Time!" television program which still airs on the Three Angel's Broadcasting Network (3ABN). As a sixth-grader, he was invited to join the Jeremy Winston Chorale and the Central States University Choir during their 2016 Summer European tour.

Lysle was most recently featured as the soloist for the National Anthem with the Takoma Academy Camerata on November 22, 2021, at the Washington Wizards basketball game.

In addition to music, Lysle enjoys playing sports (baseball, in particular), and creating dishes in the kitchen. Lysle hopes to further his musical knowledge and experience when he starts college in the Fall of 2023.



Miss Black Virginia, USA

Miss Alexandria Hunter

It is with great pride that we announce the winner of the 2022 Miss Black Virginia USA contest is Miss Alexandria Hunter. Congratulations to Miss Hunter on her successful win with this prestigious title! As our tradition, Miss Hunter will have the high honor of introducing the keynote speaker tonight.

Since she is also a classically trained vocalist, therefore Miss Hunter will also sing the National Anthem. Please join me in congratulating Miss Hunter and supporting her as she competes for the scholarship and title in the (National) Miss Black USA contest.



Alexandria Hunter's journey began in 2011 as a Miss Black USA (Princess) prancing around on stage in her first ball gown and tiara as she anxiously awaited the new queen's crowning. Even though she was only eight years old, this unique opportunity to experience black excellence at its finest left an indelible mark on her professional career.

Throughout her journey, she has been blessed to meet so many amazing people that have supported her along the way.

This pathway into pageants gave her the confidence to perform on stage and to use her talent to compete in various title competitions across the nation. Even though the piano was her first love, it soon progressed into singing and performing at school functions, competitions, and music festivals.

Throughout her high school years, she held leading roles in theatre and music while also serving on the student government association. Since then, she has performed at the highest-level in different choirs, and was even selected for the All-Virginia State Choir. She made her international opera debut as a virtual participant in the Asian American Music Society (AAMS) International Summer Music Institute in Tampere, Finland.

She continued her classical vocal training as a participant at the prestigious Brevard Music Center Summer Institute and the George Mason Community Arts Academy, where she received opera training for more than two years. Today, Miss Hunter is a sophomore at James Madison University (JMU), where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance. She currently performs with the JMU's renowned Opera Theatre, and serves as a College of Visual and Performing Arts Student Ambassador. Miss Hunter is a member of the distinguished Music Fraternity, Sigma Alpha Iota, an organization which promotes interaction among those who share a commitment to music.

With her crown and sash in tow, she will use her platform to venture into communities often overlooked and in desperate need of encouragement and inspiration. She hopes to continue using music as a catalyst to promote music education and its value to society on a broader scale.

After graduating from James Madison University, she plans to continue her education by earning a Masters of Music degree and following her dreams of performing classical music internationally. She aspires to become an influential opera singer and use her platform as an international performer to uplift people's spirits using her God-given gifts of music and the performing arts.

If you would like to donate to Miss Hunter's campaign towards becoming crowned Miss Black USA, then please consider a large or small PayPal donation at (@alexandriasings).

VaBMHA Sponsor



Hugh Allen
Regional President



Linda McGuiga
Retail Market President



Willie Tate
Vice President, - Senior
Wealth Lending Advisor
(Co-chair Regional Diversity
and Inclusion Council)



Terry Kenny
Market President

2022 - Black History Theme

Black Health and Wellness

The theme for 2022 focuses on the importance of Black Health and Wellness. This theme acknowledges the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birth workers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora. The 2022 theme considers activities, rituals, and initiatives that Black communities have done to be well.

In order to foster good health and wellness Black people have embarked on self-determination, mutual aid, and social support initiatives to build hospitals, medical and nursing schools (i.e. Meharry Medical College, Howard University College of Medicine, Provident Hospital and Training School, Morehouse School of Medicine, etc.) and community clinics.

Clinics were established by individuals, grassroots organizations, and mutual aid societies, such as the African Union Society, National Association of Colored Women, and Black Panther Party, to provide spaces for Black people to counter the economic and health disparities and discrimination that are found at mainstream institutions.

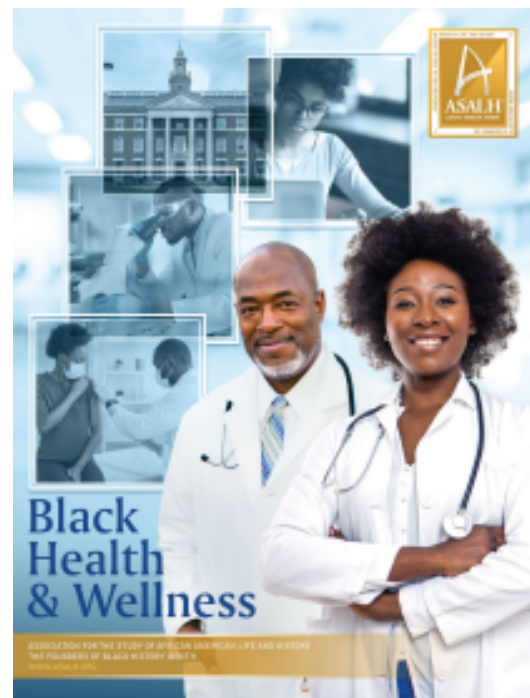
These disparities and anti-Blackness led to communities developing phrases such as “When white folks catch a cold, Black folks get pneumonia.” Initiatives to help decrease disparities have centered on several outcomes, including having more diverse practitioners and representation in all segments of the medical and health programs such as the Ronald E. McNair Scholars. Even the impact of popular culture texts like Doc McStuffins cannot be dismissed.

The rise of fields, such as Public and Community Health and Health Informatics have led to a rise in preventive care and a focus on body positivity, physical exercise, nutrition, exploring other dietary options such as veganism and vegetarianism, and gardening. Black Health and Wellness not only includes one’s physical body, but also emotional and mental health.

At this point in the 21st century, our understanding of Black health and wellness is broader and more nuanced than ever. Social media and podcasts, such as The Read, hosted by Crissle and Kid Fury have normalized talking about mental health and going to therapy as well as initiatives such as Therapy for Black Girls. More of us understand the need to hold down, lift up, center, and fight fiercely for our beloved trans siblings and family. Black girls are doing breathwork, and there are whole yoga studios dedicated to people of color.

Mindful of Sister Audre Lorde’s words, we are doing more to move forward holistically for the betterment of ourselves, our bodies, our relationships, our communities, and our planet.

We are determined to create a platform that shines a light on the multiple facets of Black health and wellness through education and activism. There is much to uncover, amplify, question, and correct. In the still overhanging shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic,



Black people should and do use data and other information-sharing modalities to document, decry, and agitate against the interconnected, intersecting inequalities intentionally baked into systems and structures in the U.S. for no other reason than to curtail, circumscribe, and destroy Black well-being in all forms and Black lives. Moreover, Black communities must look to the past to provide the light for our future, by embracing the rituals, traditions, and healing modalities of our ancestors. These ways of knowing require decolonization of thought and practice.

The rise of fields, such as Public and Community Health and Health Informatics have led to a rise in preventive care and a focus on body positivity, physical exercise, nutrition, exploring other dietary options such as veganism and vegetarianism, and gardening. Black Health and Wellness not only includes one's physical body, but also emotional and mental health. At this point in the 21st century, our understanding of Black health and wellness is broader and more nuanced than ever. Social media and podcasts, such as The Read, hosted by Crissle and Kid Fury have normalized talking about mental health and going to therapy as well as initiatives such as Therapy for Black Girls. More of us understand the need to hold down, lift up, center, and fight fiercely for our beloved trans siblings and family. Black girls are doing breathwork, and there are whole yoga studios dedicated to people of color.

ASALH MISSION

To promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.

LEARN MORE AT [ASALH.ORG](https://asalh.org)

Master of Ceremony

Julius D. Spain, Sr.

Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr. is a combat veteran who served in the United States Marine Corps for more than 26 years before retiring in December 2016. Upon retirement, Mr. Spain received one of the nation's highest military honors, the Legion of Merit, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements to the United States of America. He was recognized in the congressional record of the U.S. Senate for his remarkable contributions.

During his military service, Mr. Spain had the distinct honor and privilege of serving on a four-year diplomatic assignment in Brussels, Belgium, at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, a one-year congressional fellowship in the United States Senate, a senior legislative advisor in the Pentagon, and a federal investigator for the U.S. government.

In March 2022, Mr. Spain was selected the Washington Field Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation 2020 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award Recipient.

Currently, Mr. Spain works as a Consultant in acquisition intelligence. In 2019, Mr. Spain was political candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates.

Mr. Spain earned a Bachelor of Science in political science from the University of Maryland, University College, and completed advanced studies in legislative affairs from Georgetown University, Government Affairs Institute, Capitol Hill Fellowship Program.



Throughout his career, Mr. Spain has excelled and remains involved in civic affairs. He is currently the regional vice president of 13 branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), located in Northern Virginia.

He also flourishes as the president of the Arlington branch of the NAACP. As the leader of his branch, Mr. Spain believes in the NAACP's core mission and objectives as the nation's oldest civil rights organization to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of minority citizens of the United States and eliminate race prejudice.

The NAACP seeks to remove all barriers of racial discrimination through democratic processes. Over the years, Mr. Spain has developed an expertise in managing program operations in the highest levels of both executive and legislative branches of government. He has worked tirelessly among various demographics in the community to lead phenomenally successful community service and civic engagement platforms.

Mistress of Ceremony

Brit Jones

Brit Jones is a DMV-based media personality and co-ho of the Nationally broadcasted lifestyle TV shows, "Good Things DC" and the upcoming show "Good Things STL. Brit is also the co-founder and host of "Vedgecation," a nationally streamed series that promotes the plant-based lifestyle for all Americans.

Brit is a nationally published blogger, professionally trained public speaker, red carpet correspondent, and wellness advocate for various organizations and events. Brit is also a seasoned insurance professional, equity activist, and beauty pageant titleholder.

Though a "transplant" into the DC Metro area, Brit is highly involved in the community and charitable giveback personality. She is a resident of Loudoun County, and recently joined the Board of Directors for Loudoun4All, an organization of parents and leaders devoted to creating an equitable community for all who call Loudoun home.

Brit is married to Bryan Jones, her high school sweetheart, and together they share two handsome sons.



Guest of Honor

Dr. Shelly Powers



Dr. Shelly L.S. Powers, presents with more than 30 years of combined experience in the medical sciences and higher education. She has a distinguish track record of refining, building, and improving organizations. Dr. Powers currently serves as the newly appointed Provost at Northern Virginia Community College, Medical Education Campus. Prior to assuming this role, she served as NOVA's academic dean for health sciences.

Before joining NOVA in 2018, she held faculty and academic administrative roles at Howard University, serving as Chairperson, Program Director, Director of Didactic Education, Senior Academic Coordinator and Assistant Professor for the Physician Assistant Program in the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences; Executive Director for the District of Columbia Area Health Education Center; and at Anne Arundel Community College, where she served as interim program director for the Physician Assistant Program. As a Howard faculty member, she was active on Faculty Senate, including service on the Budget and Grievance Committees; and she was honored by Howard's College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences for Excellence in Leadership.

Dr. Powers also has significant clinical experience. She has served as the clinical director of palliative care at Aspire Health (Baltimore, Md.), and an OB-GYN physician assistant (PA) at Providence Hospital (D.C.). In addition, Dr. Powers has been the principal investigator on over \$3M of Department of Health and Human Services federal grants related to increasing access for under-represented students to healthcare pathways.

She has an exemplary track record of leading health sciences programs and leading students to success and of recruiting and supporting faculty in these complex disciplines. As Provost, Dr. Powers will build upon her experience at the MEC

and her relationships with regional healthcare partners as the campus plans its \$25M expansion and as demand for healthcare workers continues to grow. She has a strong commitment to community outreach and engagement and ensuring representation of minorities in the healthcare workforce.

Powers holds a Doctor of Medical Science from the University of Lynchburg, a Master of Administrative Management from Bowie State University, and a Bachelor of Science in Physician Assistant from Howard University. Dr. Powers resides in Maryland with her husband and three children.

Guest of Honor

Dr. Anne Kress



A resident of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), Anne M. Kress focuses on fulfilling the college's promise that every student succeeds, every program achieves, and every community prospers.

Kress sits on the boards of the American Association of Community Colleges, American Council on Education, Task Force on Higher Education and Opportunity, and Generation Hope. In the DC region, she serves on the boards of the Consortium of the Universities of the Washington Metro Area, the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Northern Virginia Technology Council, and ConnectedDMV's Regional Economic Development Strategy. Kress has testified before Congress on community colleges and workforce development and served as a negotiator on federal higher education regulations.

She co-chaired the Virginia Community College System's Opportunity 2027, a strategic plan with a goal of achieving equity in student outcomes—receiving the Dana B. Hamel Award, the highest honor the system bestows, for her work. Kress has been named to the Virginia Business 500 and Washington Business Journal Power 100, and honored by Phi Theta Kappa, the New York State Senate, YWCA, AAUW, and her alma mater, among others.

Prior to joining NOVA, she was president of Monroe Community College (NY) and provost of Santa Fe College (FL). Kress earned two bachelor's degrees, in Finance and English; a master's degree in English; and a doctorate in Higher Education Administration, all from the University of Florida.

Guest of Honor

Dr. Diane Mucci



Dr. Diane Mucci holds a PhD in Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry, and Microbiology from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, and a BS in Biology from the College of Mount Saint Joseph (OH).

She is currently the Provost for the Annandale Campus. Prior to this appointment, she had been Dean for Math, Science, Technology, and Business at NOVA's Manassas Campus since 2015; served as Program Head for Biotechnology (LO); and as a Professor of Biology (MA and LO). In addition to her service at NOVA, Dr. Mucci has been a faculty member at Frederick Community College (MD); a Postdoctoral Fellow at the NIH Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research; worked in private industry for Lockheed Martin; and served as a scientific writer for the NIH and other agencies. She has led impactful grant-funded projects at NOVA and other institutions.

An award-winning faculty member, Dr. Mucci has dedicated herself to serving and developing as an academic leader focused on equity in student success and advocacy for her colleagues. She has twice served as Chair of NOVA's College Senate, as Chair of the Academic Deans' Council, and as a discipline coordinator for the Biological Sciences. She has completed training to assist ALICE student populations and address student trauma; has facilitated data equity summits related to STEM disciplines; and participated in the NOVA Student Success Leadership Academy offered in partnership with Achieving the Dream. Dr. Mucci is also a graduate of the Chancellor's Virginia Community College System Faculty and Administrator Leadership Academy.

She couples a commitment to inclusive excellence and student success with an impressive academic and administrative background, her understanding of the foundational role faculty and staff play in student achievement.

Guest of Honor

Vincent Tucker



Vincent Tucker is a documented descendent of William Tucker, the first African-American child born in America. The William Tucker 1624 Society, made ignificant contributions to the City of Hampton, the state of Virginia, and areas within the United States, contributing to the cultural, social, and economic growth of local communities and nurturing children in homes, schools and churches while continuing to excel personally, professionally and academically. The Society was recognized by Governor Kaine at the Jamestown 400 Year Celebration in 2007, received a Proclamation from the City of Hampton in April 2013, and was acknowledged by Governor McAuliffe at African Arrival Day Celebration in 2016

Vincent Tucker is also the President of Quality Moving Services, was born and raised in Hampton, Virginia, where he attended Bethel High School. Mr. Tucker attended Virginia State University and graduated in 1985 with a B.S. degree in Public Administration. He has attended several additional education programs such as the University of Richmond's Robins School of Business MBE Executive Management Program, the University of Wisconsin's Business Management Seminar held at the University of Wisconsin, and the Tuck School of Business' Building a High Performing Minority Business Program at Dartmouth College. He currently serves as Chairman of the Central Regional Advisory Committee for the Carolina Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council and serves on the Board of Directors for the Central Virginia Better Business Bureau.

Vincent's career began at a young age when he began working at his family dry cleaning business and family grocery store which lead him to Food Lion, Inc., where he served as a store manager. Since entrepreneurship was in his blood, he always knew he wanted to own his own business. Multiple business ideas converged into what is now Quality Moving Services, established in 1989.

Quality Moving Services has provided professional relocation services throughout the state of Virginia that are dependable, honest, and responsive to client's needs for over 28 years. Quality Moving Services was awarded the MBE Class I Supplier of the Year in 2015 by the CVMSDC, QMS President, Vincent Tucker was awarded the 2013 Entrepreneur of the Year Award by VMSDC and was also awarded Vendor of the Year in 2011 by Virginia State University. QMS is a member of the Better Business Bureau with an A+ rating and has been an active member of the Metropolitan Business League (MBL) since 2012. QMS was also awarded the Outstanding Super Service Award in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2016 from Angie's List.

Vincent and his wife, Shalawn, reside in Chester, Virginia. He has four children, Jasmine, a Spellman College graduate and current elementary school teacher in New York City; Joshua, 18; Taylor, 13; and Savanna, 1.



Keynote Speaker

Judge Lynn Toler —

Judge Lynn received her Bachelor's Degree in English and American Literature from Harvard University and her Doctorate in Law from The University of Pennsylvania Law School. At 33, she was elected judge of The Cleveland Heights Municipal Court and served there for more than 8 years.

Currently, Judge Lynn is a co-host on WeTV's Marriage Bootcamp series. Judge Lynn's new podcast, That Conversation, How to Talk to the Person You're in Love With can be accessed on Himalaya.com.

While on the bench in Cleveland Heights, Judge Lynn volunteered actively in her community creating her own programs, such as Woman Talk, a project designed to intensively mentor young at-risk girls; and The CHIP Program - an intensive probationary program for young, male, chronic offenders. She also led an initiative to establish early response mental health teams for local municipal courts.

Judge Lynn has also served on a number of philanthropic boards, including but not limited to: The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), Board of Trustees Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Cuyahoga County Criminal Justice Services Supervisory Board, Board of Trustees, Goodwill Starting Over Program, Cleveland Treatment Center and The Cleveland Domestic Violence Center.

Judge Lynn is still actively engaged in both local and national initiatives to prevent domestic violence through her work as a board member of Bloom365. She also supports The Whole Brother Mission, an organization designed to address the emotional and familial wellbeing of Black men.

Judge Lynn began her television career in 2001 when she became the host of the nationally syndicated television show, Power of Attorney. During that time, she also served as a retired judge sitting by assignment in multiple jurisdictions throughout Ohio. In addition, she became an adjunct professor at Ursuline College where she developed and taught courses on Civil Rights Law and Women in the Law.

In 2006, Judge Lynn became the host of Divorce Court. In 2007, she expanded her television presence by becoming the host of the prime-time television show, Decision House.

In 2008 and 2009, Judge Lynn was a bi-monthly contributor on News and Notes. A weekly news show on National Public Radio (NPR). In 2009, she became...

...the host and a co-executive producer of Wedlock or Deadlock, a new syndicated series based on a segment of Divorce Court. Judge Lynn has appeared as a legal and relationship expert on a variety of shows including Larry King Live, Dr. Drew, CNN, The Dr. Phil Show, The Steve Harvey Show, CBS Morning Show, The Wendy Williams Show, The Breakfast Club, and many others.

Judge Lynn is the author of several books. Her first book, My Mother's Rules, A Practical Guide to Becoming an Emotional Genius was published in 2007 and was described by Ebony Magazine as an "awe-inspiring memoir". In 2009, Judge Lynn published her second book, Put It in Writing, co-authored with Deborah Hutchison. Her third book, Making Marriage Work, New Rules for an Old Institution was published in September 2012. Her latest book is entitled, Dear Sonali, Letters to the Daughter I Never Had, which was published in 2019, a book dedicated to young women, their progress, and personal journey.

Judge Lynn has been the recipient of numerous awards. She is, however, most proud of The 2002 Humanitarian of the Year Award given to her by The Cleveland Domestic Violence Center and In 2009 Voice of Freedom Award she received from the Philadelphia Chapter of the Martin Luther King where she was honored to join the ranks of previous recipients, Vice President Al Gore and Colin Powell.

Judge Lynn has been married to Eric Mumford since April, 1989. She has two sons and four stepsons.



Kay Harris - Main Entertainment Umbiance Center for the Performing Arts



Ms. Kay Harris started her professional dance career at the age of nineteen after realizing her love for dancing and the performing arts. Throughout her professional career, she has danced with the famed Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, the Dance Theatre of Harlem, and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. One of the highlights of her career was the unique opportunity to meet and perform for actress Vivica Foxx.

For more than 15 years, she performed as a principal dancer and/or ensemble dancer throughout the United States. After many years of performing, she decided to end her professional dancing career to fulfill her lifelong dream of becoming a choreographer and instructor for the next generation of professional dancers. Her works include the choreography of Debbie Allen's, rendition of *Dancing in the Wings*, *Amazing Grace*, *the Wiz*, and many others.

Ms. Harris has recently added the title "Director" to her list of accomplishments with multiple directorial credits added to her resume. Most recently her choreography received five stars for her rendition of Debbie Allen's "Dancing in the Wings" and the Broadway Musical "The Wiz."

Many of her students pursued careers in dance and performing arts and performed for professional dance companies such as the Dance Theatre of Harlem and others. To date, her students have performed at The Kennedy Center and on national television alongside Former First Lady Michelle Obama.

Her passion for teaching starts in the heart and takes flight in her dance classroom which flows into each of her students. This passion for teaching, guiding, and educating her students is what motivates her to continue to inspire others.

Although she has enjoyed an illustrious career in the performing arts, she believes her greatest accomplishment has been becoming a mother.

For more information on the Umbiance Center for the Performing Arts, you can visit their website at www.umbiencedance.com.



Opening Prayer & Broom Jumping Ceremony

Pastor Jeffery Smith

Lead Pastor of Strong Tower Church | Fredericksburg, VA

Jeffrey Smith is the Lead Pastor of Strong Tower Church in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Strong Tower is a thriving congregation located just south of Washington D.C. It is a place of restoration and hope for people from all walks of life. Today, it continues to make significant impact throughout the central Virginia region and around the world.

Pastor Smith's communication style is passionate, practical and engaging. His focus is on reaching people with the empowering message of Jesus Christ, developing leaders and building the local church.

Pastor Smith received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance from Bowling Green State University and a Masters in Organizational Leadership from Regent University. Pastor Smith has a passion for helping pastors and leaders push their vision forward. As president of JSS Consulting Inc., he helps today's leaders reach new heights in ministry. He is also a certified executive coach through the world-renowned Hudson Institute of Coaching in Santa Barbara, California. His extensive corporate and ministry background has made him uniquely qualified to assist pastors and leaders in reaching their next level. After years of working with pastors and leaders he has developed keen insight in the areas of strategic planning, leadership development, systems implementation and enhancing staff productivity. He is sought after internationally for his expertise in leadership consulting and helping them realize their untapped potential.

In addition, Pastor Smith serves as Director of Cornerstone Global Network under the leadership of Bishop Michael Pitts. It is a network of over 80 churches throughout the United States, Mexico, and the U.K.



Sena Tsikata
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
TO LEAD PASTOR
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Contest Finalists

The Children's Writing Contest **Top Finalists** *Ms. Lauren M. Bautista*
Ms. Mkiyah T. Gonzalez

The VaBHMA James Farmer Scholarship **Top Finalists** *Ms. Jasmyne Lewis*
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**Congratulations and Best Wishes for the Virginia
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The William Tucker 1624 Society

Vincent A. Tucker, President

williamtucker1624society.org

The William Tucker 1624 Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is an organization dedicated to the education of the greater public about the first Africans to arrive in Virginia.



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NOVA is grateful to continue to support communities of color and to be recognized by the Virginia Black History Association.

Whether seeking the workforce credentials needed to begin an exciting career or earning the associate degree needed to transfer to a four-year college or university, students find their futures at NOVA. Our college reflects the deep diversity of our region. One in three Virginia community college students is a NOVA student where we provide equity in academic and economic opportunity.

We are the largest supplier of workforce talent in the region. Employers like Amazon, Alarm.com and Inova partner with NOVA on programs that prepare our graduates for good jobs and great careers. Thanks to funding through FastForward and G3, these career pathways are more affordable than ever. We are grateful for Virginia's investment in expanding NOVA's Medical Education Campus and building a new Trades Center at the Manassas Campus—thereby increasing our capacity to meet the workforce needs of the future.



"We picked NOVA because we heard it was the best school in the area, and because it was veteran friendly."

— QUINTOYA BELL AND SPENCER BROWN
Veterans, Human Resource Management and
Information Technology Students, NOVA



"I am from South Sudan and have been in the U.S. for ten years. This CNA class meant a lot to me and my classmates as most of us came from different countries. During the pandemic, most of the people have not been working and we would not have been here unless this program was possible. I know some of us will be great nurses and doctors, and anything we want to be."

— AMER JOK, NOVA student

66

two-year degree
programs

10

certificate
programs

45

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in healthcare programs



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Menu

First Course

GATEWAY CAESAR SALAD

Fresh Romaine, Shaved Parmesan, and Seasoned Croutons, served with Caesar
Style Dressing

Fresh Baked Bread Service with Coffee and Tea Service

VIP Duet Main Course (no substitutions).

GRILLED MARINATED FLANK STEAK & PANKO AND HERB-CRUSTED CHICKEN

Cabernet Sauce, Fire Roasted Mushrooms, Three Cheese Potato Soufflé,
Buttered Asparagus, Roasted Roma Tomato with Balsamic and EVO

Guest Main Course (select one).

PANKO AND HERB CRUSTED CHICKEN

Angel Hair Pasta, Sundried Tomato Pesto

PAN-SEARED SALMON

Crayfish Butter, Wild Rice Pilaf

*Vegetarian /Vegan/ Gluten Free (option).

VEGETABLE NAPOLEON

Roasted Portobello Mushrooms, Eggplant, Zucchini, Yellow Squash, Fresh Mozzarella
with Fire Roasted Tomato Sauce

Children's Menu (select one).

Chicken Fingers or Hamburgers

French fries, fresh fruit cup, chocolate brownies with whipped cream, milk or soft drink





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THE VIRGINIA BLACK HISTORY MONTH ASSOCIATION
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