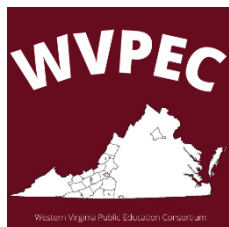


Western Virginia Public Education Consortium



Virginia School Leaders 4th Annual Hot Topics Conference June 21, 2021



Agenda

- 8:00am – 8:45am** Registration / Table Designation
Tours of Pulaski County Middle School
- 8:45am – 8:55am** Welcome & Introduction
Dr. Terry Arbogast, Executive Director, WVPEC
Dr. Kevin Siers, Superintendent Pulaski County Public Schools
- 8:55am – 9:30am** “Facilitating Educational Justice”
Dr. Karen Eley Sanders, Vice Provost for College Access, Virginia Tech
- 9:35am – 10:15am** “Spoonfuls of Learning: Our Journey in Creating Diverse, Equitable & Inclusive Schools”
Dr. Kenna Colley, Executive Director Pupil Services, Radford City Public Schools

10:15am – 10:25am *BREAK*

10:25am – 12:15pm HOT TOPICS PRESENTATIONS

- Ms. Holly Coy, - “Cultural Competency”
- Mr. Donald “Rusty” Fairheart – “Pandemic Relief Funding in Virginia”
- Annie Whitaker, Jonathan E Schulz, and Dominick F McKee – “Alternate Routes to Licensure Options”

	Auditorium	Library/Media Room	Cafeteria
10:30 to 11:00	Group 1	Group 3	Group 2
11:05 to 11:35	Group 2	Group 1	Group 3
11:40 to 12:10	Group 3	Group 2	Group 1

- 12:15pm – 1:35pm** LUNCHEON & KEYNOTE ADDRESS
“Leading from the Heart”
Pat B. Huber, Ed.D., President, New River Community College
Thank you to the Lunch Ladies at PCMS who provided the lunch.

1:35pm – 1:45pm *BREAK*

- 1:45pm – 3:05pm** “Recent Developments in Education Law”
Micah B Schwartz, McGuire Woods LLP

- 3:05pm –** Adjourn ~ Dr. Arbogast, WVPEC
Tours of Pulaski County Middle School

Our Keynote: Dr. Pat B Huber

When **Pat Bear** graduated from Wytheville Community College in 1974, she never imagined that one day she would become president of a college. But, 43 years later, **Dr. Pat B. Huber** became New River Community College's sixth president and the first female to hold the position.

As a result of her love of education, the region and especially the people of New River Community College, her move to the leadership of the college was the best next step in her career following the retirement of Dr. Jack Lewis.

Within 25 years of full-time employment at NRCC, Dr. Huber came to the presidency after serving as vice president for instruction and student services for 10 years. She also held other roles including interim vice president for instruction and student services, dean of arts and sciences, assistant division chair for the division of arts and sciences, and instructor/assistant professor of English. She earned a Ph.D. in community college leadership from Old Dominion University in 2006 while serving as NRCC's dean of arts and sciences.

She earned teaching credentials and a bachelor's degree in English from Emory and Henry College in 1976, then became a high school teacher in Smyth and Wythe Counties. During that time, she earned a master's degree in secondary education from West Virginia University. After a move to Pulaski in 1987, she taught full-time at Pulaski County High School and part-time at NRCC in dual enrollment and evening programs.

In Pulaski, where she resides with her husband, Peter, Dr. Huber enjoys being a member of the Pulaski Rotary Club and participating in community activities. She also serves on various committees and the leadership council of First United Methodist Church and the board of directors and scholarship committee for the Community Foundation of the New River Valley.

Dr. Huber likes to spend time with her family, cook and support local sports teams in her free time.



Our Presenters: Equity

Karen Eley Sanders, Associate Vice Provost for College Access, Virginia Tech.

Karen has worked in higher education as a counselor, administrator, and faculty member for nearly three decades and currently serves as Associate Vice Provost for College Access at Virginia Tech. She has taught undergraduate and graduate courses; coordinated recruitment, new student orientation and academic enrichment programs; served as an academic advisor; developed and directed undergraduate advising and academic support units; collaborated with colleagues to develop scholarship programs; and provided campus-wide leadership in the areas of student success, retention and diversity.



She earned a B.S. and M.S. in Psychology from Virginia State University and a doctorate in Adult and Developmental Education from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She also earned a certified developmental education specialist degree through the Kellogg Institute at Appalachian State University.

Dr. Kenna Colley - Dr. Kenna M. Colley recently retired from Radford University after 25 years of service as Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development, Director of the School of Teacher Education and Leadership as well as serving as a special education faculty member and grant director. Dr. Colley brought the Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) to Radford University in 1996 and obtained over \$33 million dollars in education grants during her tenure. She spent the first ten years of her career as a special educator in Maryland and Virginia public schools focusing on inclusive practices. She has happily returned to public schools as Executive Director of Pupil Services in Radford City Schools and works on building Trauma Sensitive Schools, School-wide Positive Behavior and Instructional Supports, Social/Emotional Learning, Educational Equity, Response-to-Intervention and other student-related work. Kenna is the Region 7 representative for the Visible Equity Task Force with VASCD and a co-representative for the Region 7 VDOE Educational Equity team.



Our Presenters: Roundtable

Holly Coy is the Assistant Superintendent for Policy, Equity and Communications at the Virginia Department of Education. She previously served as Deputy Secretary of Education for Governor Northam and Governor McAuliffe. Before joining the office of the Secretary of Education, Holly served as Policy Director for then Lt. Governor Northam. Previously, 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 of 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.

Mr. Donald "Rusty" Fairheart, currently serves as the Deputy Superintendent and Chief of Staff for the Division of School Quality, Instruction, and Performance with the Virginia Department of Education. Prior to joining VDOE, Mr. Fairheart served as Chief of Staff and Interim Superintendent for Chesterfield County Public Schools. Prior to joining Chesterfield County Public Schools, Mr. Fairheart was executive director for the multi-jurisdictional Southeastern Cooperative Education Program (SECEP) in Norfolk and served as superintendent in Middlesex County from 2007-11. His career started as a special education teacher with SECEP and as an instructional specialist for York County Public Schools, and he later served as assistant director of special education and director of assessment for Gloucester County Public Schools.



Annie Whitaker, is the Deputy Superintendent for Montgomery County Public Schools. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English, her Master of Arts in Curriculum and Instruction, and her Master of Arts in Educational Leadership from Radford University. She is currently working toward a Doctorate of Education at East Tennessee State University. She taught middle school language arts for seven and a half years, was an assistant principal for three years, served as Director of Curriculum and Instruction and then Assistant Superintendent for a total of four years before coming to MCPS where she served as Director of Human Resources for three years before starting her current position in the 2019-2020 school year.



Jonathan E. Schulz is the Supervisor of Grants and Innovation. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, and a Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, all from Virginia Tech. In addition he has a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Radford University. He taught for one year in North Carolina and seven years in Montgomery County, Virginia before serving as the MCPS Supervisor/Administrator of Mathematics for eleven years. He has been in his present position since 2018.



Dominick F. McKee is the Assistant Director of Human Resources in Montgomery County Public Schools. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, a Master of Science in Counseling and Human Development, and Administration and Supervision license and endorsement, all from Radford University, Radford, VA; and is enrolled in a Doctorate in Educational Leadership program at American College of Education, Indianapolis, IN. He has served as guidance counselor, assistant principal, principal, and Supervisor of Human Resources.



Our Presenters: Education Law

Micah B Schwartz, Litigator, McGuire Woods, Micah is a litigator who focuses his practice on employment, workplace safety, and education matters. He regularly represents clients in federal and state courts at the trial and appellate levels, and provides counsel on sensitive legal matters to prevent them from reaching the courtroom.



Micah has defended companies in court against claims under Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act.

Micah regularly represents clients before government agencies, including the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), and the Department of Education. Micah has extensive experience with all aspects of litigation, from electronic discovery through summary judgment, trial, and appeal.

Micah also represents clients in non-competition and trade secret disputes and frequently defends clients against whistleblower claims.

Prior to joining the firm, Micah served as a litigation associate with an international law firm in Washington, D.C. He also served as a law clerk for the Honorable David G. Trager, U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of New York. Micah earned his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Virginia, where he served as student body president.