

# PROGRAM



**Training Alumni**

Sponsored by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities

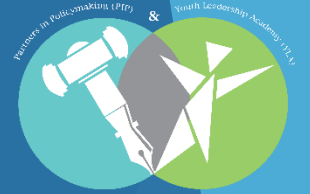
## *Celebrating Our Own:* **Hidden Figures Advocating for People with Disabilities**

**THE ALUMNI DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
TRAINING ALUMNI LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

Hilton Richmond Short Pump and Spa  
June 14-15, 2024



**Virginia Board for  
People with Disabilities**



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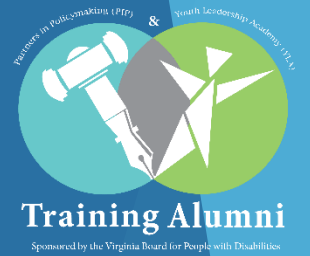
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## ABOUT OUR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE THEME

The Alumni Development Program's Conference Theme: **“Celebrating Our Own: Hidden Figures Advocating for People with Disabilities”** celebrates, highlights, and showcases **“OUR OWN” TRAINING ALUMNI**. This theme communicates unapologetically that VBPD and the Training & Alumni Development Program's Unit is committed to train, develop, and equip Self-Advocates and Family members to be effective leaders and advocates; and to provide professional opportunities for our Alumni to train others.

Inspiration for our conference theme was taken from the 2017 Academy Award-winning movie **HIDDEN FIGURES**, starring Taraji P. Henson, Octavia Spencer, Janelle Monae, Kevin Costner, Glen Powell, and Kirsten Dunst. This movie brought to light the experiences of having highly skilled and successful individuals whose accomplishments were not known; and or diminished. Our selection of this Theme **“Celebrating Our Own: Hidden Figures Advocating for People with Disabilities”** focuses on celebrating, acknowledging, and providing professional opportunities for our **“Training Alumni”** (Graduates of Partners in Policymaking (PIP) and or Youth Leadership Academy (YLA)), who are **“Hidden Figures”** Advocating for People with Disabilities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia to share their experiences and expertise and to provide platforms and forums for them to use their leadership and advocacy skills to train others.

These **Hidden Figures** are often unseen heroes, yet they tirelessly advocate for equitable access to rights for themselves and their loved ones with disabilities. These **Hidden Figures** include parents and family members who advocate alongside their loved ones, attending IEP meetings, vocational rehabilitation sessions, and consultations with attorneys. When confronted with injustice, these heroes rally together to develop strategies to address and eliminate barriers. In the words of Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings, these **Hidden Figures** do not seek success; they seek significance. For this reason, we celebrate that a majority of our conference workshop presenters, Alumni staffers and conference attendees are Graduates of Partners in Policymaking (PIP) or the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) Training Programs. This is why we are **“Celebrating Our Own: Hidden Figures Advocating for People with Disabilities.”**



## **Governor's Office & General Assembly Representative**

Secretary John Littel, *Commonwealth of Virginia Health & Human Resources*  
Senator Barbara Favola, *Chair of Virginia Disability Commission*  
Ms. Teri Morgan, *Executive Director of VBPD*

**28 PRESENTERS**

**16 ALUMNI**

**75 ATTENDEES**

## **Opening Keynote - Overcoming Obstacles**

Mr. George Dennehy, *Speaker*

## **Let's Get Physical! Tools and Resources to Stay Active when you have a Disability**

Ms. Caitlyn Berry, *Health & Wellness Outcomes Manager*; Mr. David Robbins, *Outreach Coordinator of Sportable*

## **This is How We Roll: Our Experiences with Struggles, Success, and Everything In Between**

Mr. Garrett Brumfield, *YLF Alumnus*; Ms. Kennedy Rose, *YLF Alumna*

## **Movement Matters**

Major Kim "Rooster" Rossiter, *Founder & CEO of Ainsley's Angels*

## **Advocates in Action**

Ms. Amanda Fino, *PIP Alumna*; Mr. Jeremy Smith, *PIP Alumnus*; Ms. Kristina Lloyd, *PIP Alumna*;  
Ms. Lucy Sturman, *YLF & PIP Alumna*

## **Motivate ♦ Educate ♦ Liberate!**

Mr. Kemel Patton, *Music Seminar*

## **Navigating Justice: Safeguarding Individuals with Developmental Disabilities**

Dr. Nicci Dowd, *PIP Alumna*; Ms. Catherine Childers, *PIP Alumna*; Mr. Brian Kelmar, *President of Decriminalize Developmental Disabilities*; Ms. Amy Trail, *Educational Consultant of FACES*

## **The SEAC Table: Are You Serving a Full Course Meal or Being Served Scraps?**

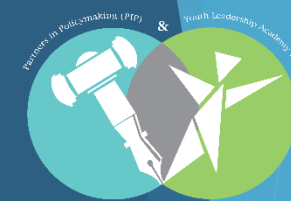
Mr. Mychael Willon, *PIP Alumnus*; Ms. Catherine Childers, *PIP Alumna*; Ms. Kristie Bowie-Young, *PIP Alumna*; Ms. Debbie Stachkunas, *PIP Alumna*; Ms. Cora Smith, *SEAC Student Representative at Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools*; Ms. Christine Germeyer, *Facilitator & PIP Alumna*

## **PIP Training Alumni "Sharing Our Experiences and Journeys as Advocates"**

Ms. Christy Crowther, *PIP Alumna*; Tammy Burns, *PIP Alumna*; Bradford Hulcher, *PIP Alumna*

## **Closing Keynote - Leadership: Live Loud!**

Jonathan Martinis, *Esq., J.D., Leadership Focus Keynote Speaker, and Attorney for Jenny Hatch in the "Justice for Jenny" Case*



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WELCOME



REGISTRATION



# OPENING PLENARY

# GEORGE DENNEHY



# SECRETARY JOHN LITTEL







ADVOCATES IN ACTION

GARRETT BRUMFIELD  
KENNEDY ROSE



AMANDA FORRY/FINO  
JEREMY SMITH  
KRISTINA LLOYD  
LUCY STURMAN



THIS IS HOW WE ROLL





LET'S GET PHYSICAL

SPORTABLE

CAITLYN BERRY  
DAVID ROBBINS



MAJOR KIM "ROOSTER" ROSSITER

MOVEMENT MATTERS

THOMAS LEACH



DR. PENNI SWEETENBURG-LEE

AINSLEY'S ANGELS OF AMERICA







MOTIVATE EDUCATE & LIBERATE



KEMEL PATTON



NAVIGATING JUSTICE



CATHERINE CHILDERS  
NICCI DOWD  
BRIAN KELMAR  
AMY TRAIL



TERI MORGAN

SENATOR BARBARA FAVOLA



ALISON COLES-JOHNSON



KELLIE VANELLA



LEADERSHIP: LIVE LOUD!



ATTORNEY JONATHAN MARTINIS

BRADFORD HULCHER  
CHRISTY CROWTHER  
TAMMY BURNS



THE JOURNEY TO NOW

CATHERINE CHILDERS  
KRISTIE BOWIE-YOUNG  
DEBBIE STACHKUNAS  
MYCHAEL WILLON  
CORA SMITH  
CHRISTINE GERMEYER



THE SEAC TABLE





CELEBRATING OUR OWN:  
HIDDEN FIGURES ADVOCATING  
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES







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