

October 2019

High quality
mentoring
transforms
lives and
strengthens
Virginia
communities



Staffing Updates

Farewell & Best Wishes to Elizabeth Bass, Executive Director

Please join us in sharing our best wishes with Elizabeth, who is leaving her position on October 25th after more than 6 years leading MENTOR Virginia. She will begin a new chapter as Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations at Virginia Commonwealth University, a role that will draw on the experience that she's gained in relationship and partnership development through working in the nonprofit sector--especially through her work with MENTOR Virginia partners.

"I have loved working with our incredible staff, board and programs over the past six and a half years. I have grown as a leader and I have learned so much from this organization. I will miss everyone in our network, but I will always be a champion of mentoring and a supporter of this work," Elizabeth shared. "I hope you will keep in touch at eebass@vcu.edu."



Natalie Foster, our Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships, will be stepping in as interim director. Natalie can be reached at natalie@mentorva.org.



MENTOR Virginia Welcomes Sarah Wilkinson, Program Coordinator

Please join us in welcoming Sarah Wilkinson to the MENTOR Virginia staff. While Sarah is new to the Program Coordinator role, she is not new to MENTOR Virginia. Sarah served as an AmeriCorps VISTA in 2017-2018 and then as a VISTA Leader in 2018-2019 through MENTOR Virginia. She brings experience in program development/implementation, resource and systems development, communications and data strategy, and technical assistance. In her new role, Sarah will be leading technical assistance provision as well as organizational communications and data management. Sarah holds a B.S. in Professional Writing from Champlain College. Sarah can be reached at sarah@mentorva.org.

News & Announcements



MENTOR
VIRGINIA

In Case You Missed It...Virginia Mentoring Partnership is Now MENTOR Virginia!

Earlier this month, we announced that Virginia Mentoring Partnership is rebranding to **MENTOR Virginia**! While our name and logo have changed, our mission remains the same. We continue to partner with mentoring programs to help grow their impact, because high quality mentoring transforms lives and strengthens Virginia communities.

This change allows us to better align with MENTOR National, the lead champion for youth mentoring in the United States. We are proud to be the Virginia Affiliate of MENTOR National, and to utilize their resources and access their customized trainings to further expand our reach locally. As MENTOR Virginia, we remain committed to our work supporting programs and increasing awareness of the need for quality mentoring in Virginia.

[Visit Our New Website!](#)

Welcome AmeriCorps VISTA Cohort 8!

We are excited to welcome a new cohort of AmeriCorps VISTAs for the 2019-2020 service year! Our VISTA Members are serving with mentoring programs across the state to develop new and strengthen existing mentoring programs.

Cohort 8 VISTA Members:

Emily Bolinger, Peter Paul Development Center
Katelyn Chau, MentorPrize
Hope Davis, Germanna Community College



Jessica Hand, MentorPrize
Brianna Harrison-Dunn, Befriend-A-Child - Fairfax County Department of Family Services
Melody Lutz, Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club
Lynsey Meissner, Charlottesville Abundant Life
Blake Mogel, Communities in Schools of Chesterfield
Abbie Wolf, Study Buddy Program - Fairfax County Department of Family Services

[Learn About Hosting a VISTA Member](#)

Program Resources

Upcoming Training Opportunities

New Mentor Training - October 29th, 5:30-8:00 pm

This training is open to the public. To reserve your spot, click the register button below.

[Register for the Oct. 29th Training](#)

New Mentor Training - November 12th, 5:30-8:00 pm

This training is open to the public. To reserve your spot, click the register button below.

[Register for the Nov. 12th Training](#)

MENTOR Virginia also offers private, custom trainings. To book a private training for your program or organization, please contact Natalie Foster, natalie@mentorva.org.

[Book a Private Training](#)

Request Technical Assistance

Are you a mentoring program staff member who wants to improve the quality of your program? Our one-on-one program consultation, or “technical assistance,” provides guidance and resources for program staff on topics of their choice such as:

- Developing a recruitment plan/strategy
- Developing a mentor training curriculum
- Training program staff to deliver mentor trainings
- Developing evaluation measures and collecting data
- Developing and implementing policies/procedures



We are accepting new requests through the National Mentoring Resource Center [portal](#). Need help completing your request application? Contact Sarah, sarah@mentorva.org.

Event Highlights



2019 Power of Mentoring Event

We had a wonderful time at our 2019 Power of Mentoring event on October 10th, where we celebrated the power that mentoring has to transform the lives of young people and honored outstanding corporate and community mentors throughout Virginia. Congratulations again to our **Outstanding Corporate Mentor, Lora Loftis**, and our

two **Outstanding Community Mentors, Cynthia Chin and Stan Davis!**

Lora Loftis from **Markel Corporation** was nominated for her commitment as a mentor with **Partnership for the Future** for 10 years. Stan Davis was nominated for his dedication and reliability as a mentor at Dumbarton Elementary and through **Big Brothers Big Sisters**. Cynthia Chin was nominated for her long-lasting mentoring relationship with Ashley at a **Space of Her Own**—12 years. Ashley attended the event with Cynthia and even enjoyed some time playing over-sized Connect Four.



With 150,000 young people in Virginia still in need of positive developmental relationships with caring adults, please consider supporting our cause.

Support Mentoring

Advocacy

Amplify Your Voice at MENTOR's Capitol Hill Day

Are you interested in sharing with your Members of Congress about youth mentoring in your community, state, or organization? If so, please consider joining us on January 29, 2020 for Capitol Hill Day. All talking points, summaries about mentoring legislative issues and bills, and appointments will be provided by MENTOR.



What is asked of participants?

- **January 6, 2020 at 3:30 PM** - MENTOR will host a live webinar on Capitol Hill Day for participants.
- **January 14, 2020 at 10 AM** - Virginia's Capitol Hill Day webinar call for all Virginia participants.
- **January 28, 2020 from 2 - 5 PM** - Advocacy Workshop (in-person Capitol Hill Day training) at the National Mentoring Summit headquarters hotel.
- **Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020 from 10 AM - 4 PM:** Capitol Hill Day!

For more information or if you are interested in participating, please contact Sarah at sarah@mentorva.org.

[Sign Up for Capitol Hill Day](#)

STAY CONNECTED



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