

The recipients of the 2019 Governor's Honor Awards are:

**Enhancing the Prosperity and Quality of Life in Rural Virginia:** Exceptional contributions in support of the Governor's plan of building a stronger Virginia by demonstrating a positive impact on rural community development.

**Yvonne Frazier, James Madison University**

Yvonne has provided exemplary leadership as the Program Manager for Healthy Families, Page and Shenandoah Counties. Her stellar administrative skills have ensured that rural, low-income parents have the tools they need to guide and care for their children, to improve their education and employment status and to ensure that their children are healthy and prepared for school.

Yvonne's creativity, innovation and fearlessness have spawned numerous public private partnerships resulting in a new child care center, expanded rural family access to Baby Boxes, safe sleep practice training and countless learning opportunities for JMU students from a variety of disciplines.

**Diversification of Energy Sources:** Efforts to diversify energy sources through the promotion of energy efficiency programs and advancing science-based energy regulations.

**Infrastructure and Environmental Management Unit, Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC)**

This team completed installation of a 852.72 kW solar photovoltaic System at Haynesville Correctional Center. This exemplifies VADOC's dedication to piloting a solar electric generation project that is one of only three state projects granted funding by the US. Department of Energy Office of Efficiency and Renewable Energy through the VA Department of Mines Minerals and Energy. These solar projects will help VADOC reduce its energy cost while transitioning toward more renewable energy deployment, which is in alignment with Governor Northam's 2018 Energy Plan that includes a 16 percent renewable energy goal by the end of 2022.

**Ensuring Access to Skilled Workers through Workforce Development Programs:**

**Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers (GO TEC) Project, Department of Housing and Community Development**

The GOTEC team assembled an incredible collaboration of school divisions, higher education institutions, economic developers, employers and the GO Virginia program to create a pipeline of skilled workers in advanced manufacturing, specifically robotics and mechatronics, precision machining and metrology, welding and advanced materials. GOTEC will expose youth to advanced manufacturing tools and techniques in middle and high schools as well as the careers associated with these fields, increasing the talent pipeline of workers throughout Southside and Southwest Virginia.

**Administration Excellence:** Helping to transform the culture of the Commonwealth.

**Chief Daniel Dusseau, Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC)**

The chief's successes at NVCC have inspired law enforcement and academic administrative professionals at the local, state and national levels to improve personal and campus safety,

advance the quality of the academic experience and enhance the recognition of law enforcement officers as valuable members of society. Among the numerous changes he implemented were establishing a state-of-the-art 24/7 dispatch center, which increased police responsiveness, expedited service to the community and centralized police operations for NVCC's six campuses. Chief Dusseau established a successful community outreach program and promulgated over 130 new General Orders in 2018 to improve/standardize police operations.

**Personal and Professional Excellence:** Recognizes an individual who has demonstrated an exceptional level of accomplishment.

**Tracy Lee, Department of Education (DOE)**

Tracy provided leadership and guidance in development of the Critical Decision Points for Families of Students with Disabilities document and associated training curriculum. An informational resource for parents of students with disabilities, the document includes a printed guide, web-based training modules, in-person training for families, and an in-person "train the trainer" program for school personnel and other stakeholders who work with families of students with educational disabilities. Through Tracy's efforts to ensure dissemination of this information, DOE has significantly expanded its outreach across the Commonwealth regarding special education processes, including the underserved areas of rural Virginia, our military families and parents of students entering pre-school.

**Support Service:** Recognizes employees who demonstrate an exceptional level of accomplishment in providing administrative support and whose dedication and contributions enhance administrative excellence.

**Stanley J. Christian, Department of Military Affairs:** As the sole HVAC mechanic, Stanley has been diligent in continuously operating, upgrading and repairing the agency's aging HVAC systems, saving the unit up to \$45,000 in contractor costs. Using the training received on complex propriety control systems, he has single-handedly attempted to troubleshoot and remedy previous oversights, and locate uninstalled or improperly installed components that have degraded facilities and wasted both energy and dollars. In addition, his knowledge has identified requirements that would dramatically improve system trouble identification and operational effectiveness. By arduously monitoring, compiling and analyzing systems trends, as well as performing over \$65,000 of preventative and repair work orders, he has been a key player in the design and planning of a much-needed, modernized system.

**Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach:** Demonstration of exceptional commitment to these values and effecting positive change through contributions that serve to benefit the entire Commonwealth.

**Paula Saylor-Robinson, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**

In just over three years, Paula Saylor-Robinson, Director of Audience Development and Community Engagement, has contributed significantly to the VMFA's strategic plan by leading a variety of outreach initiatives with the primary goal of attracting broader, more diverse audiences to the museum. Paula participates in numerous community events including the 2nd Street Festival in Jackson Ward, Richmond Symphony Orchestra Big Tent Festivals in Jackson

Ward and Southside, and the St. Elizabeth Jazz Festival. Paula also hosts the VMFA After Hours, which is targeted to the African American community and has brought in over 2,700 total guests across the past four events. In addition, Paula is heavily involved in the planning of “Ascend and Lead: A Women’s Empowerment Forum” taking place at the VMFA. The forum will highlight career stories from women of color and their respective journeys of leadership, in hopes of inspiring the next generation.

**Creative Customer Service:** Demonstration of an exceptional level of accomplishment and innovation in serving customers.

**Virginia Tax Refund Fraud Prevention Team, Department of Taxation**

The Virginia Tax Refund Fraud Prevention Team tackles one of the most critical issues facing state tax agencies every day – protecting taxpayers and the Commonwealth from a variety of threats, including income tax refund fraud and identity theft. So far in 2019, the team’s work has resulted in the denial of more than \$28 million in fraudulent refund returns. Through the development of Online Refund Verification, Online Submission of Documents and an Automated Return Release Process, the Refund Fraud Prevention Team protects the bottom line for taxpayers, Virginia Tax and the Commonwealth. The team’s ideas have helped deny more fraudulent refunds, streamline processes for efficiency, reduce taxpayer processing times and dissatisfaction, and increase the agency’s ability to scrutinize more suspicious returns.

**Heroism:** Demonstrating exceptional heroism by exhibiting outstanding courage in an emergency.

**Officer Tyler Thornsby, Department of Corrections:** In the course of a critical incident at red Onion, Officer Thornsby acted selflessly by coming to the aid of a fellow officer which saved the officer’s life.

**Public Service:** Implementing community and public service projects that have made a beneficial and sustainable effect on the quality of community life for citizens in the Commonwealth.

**Deputy Comptroller Chanel Hobbs, State Corporation Commission (SCC)**

Diagnosed with ALS, a progressive neuromuscular disease, in 2008, Chanel can no longer perform basic life functions without assistance. Paralyzed and on a ventilator, she works full-time from home, is active in her church and volunteers with her family to raise money and advocate for Virginians living with ALS. Her efforts have raised more than \$350,000 for ALS education and research. Chanel has advocated for ALS funding on Capitol Hill, openly shares her own experience with new ALS patients and others and participates in ALS-related clinical trials and studies. Hundreds of employees are impacted by her work as Deputy Comptroller at the SCC and thousands more members of the public benefit from her fundraising and advocacy efforts. Chanel’s professionalism and advocacy for people living with ALS demonstrates her outward focus to serving the commission, her coworkers, her community, and the Commonwealth.

**Public-Private Partnerships:** Recognizes the exceptional contributions of the Commonwealth's external partners that enhance innovation, productivity and efficiency in the Commonwealth.

**Driven to Protect Program, Department of Motor Vehicles**

Driven to Protect is advancing state-of-the-art technology that will help eliminate injuries and deaths caused by drunk driving. Through this initiative, piloted by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, in partnership with James River Transportation and the Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety (DADSS) Program, engineers have gathered real-world data on the accuracy and precision of breath-based sensors that passively detect a driver's BAC level, while boosting awareness of this technology among the public. The feedback received is not only helping improve the alcohol detection system's performance, but it is building consumer demand for making this technology available as an optional safety feature in vehicles.

**Commonwealth: Building a Stronger Virginia:** The achievement and contribution that most closely embodies this year's theme.

**Deputy Comptroller Chanel Hobbs, State Corporation Commission**

Chanel is a goodwill ambassador for the ALS Association and a motivating force to focus on the greater good.