

# 2024 VIRGINIA SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING FORUM

*Preparation and Partnerships: Breaking Down Silos to Improve School Safety*

## PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

### JEFFREY AARON

Dr. Jeffrey Aaron, Ph.D. is a clinical and forensic psychologist. Currently the Juvenile Justice and Behavioral Health Program Manager for the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, he previously spent almost 18 years at the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents, Virginia's only public psychiatric hospital for children and adolescents, in clinical roles and as the hospital's director. Dr. Aaron is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences at the University of Virginia Medical School and associate faculty at the UVA Institute of Law, Psychiatry and Public Policy. He also has a private practice in which he conducts forensic psychological evaluations of adolescents and adults, with areas of specialization that include evaluation of confessions, mitigation, post-traumatic stress, and juvenile justice. Dr. Aaron has provided invited testimony before the Virginia House and Senate and has presented across the country on topics including forensic psychological evaluation, adolescent development, legal decision-making, the impact of trauma, and clinical assessment of children and adolescents. He was a member of the Mental Health Workgroup of the Governor's Task Force on School and Campus Safety, the Charlottesville/Albemarle gang intervention project known as Gang Reduction through Active Community Engagement (GRACE), and the Virginia Interagency Task Force charged with making recommendations to the Virginia General Assembly regarding the transformation of Virginia's juvenile justice system. He is actively involved in developing systems to train public safety officers and was recently sworn in as a reserve sheriff's deputy.

### FIONA BROWN

Fiona Brown is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Virginia. For nearly 20 years she has helped teens, families, and professionals understand substance use and addiction as a physical and mental health issue. She has experience as a substance abuse treatment provider in community mental health and private practice and has served as a substance abuse prevention and intervention specialist in a public-school setting. She has trained education, mental health, and law enforcement professionals on identifying and responding to teen substance use using a trauma-informed and culturally responsive approach. Ms. Brown is the author of a parenting guide to understanding, preventing, and responding to teen substance use, titled "Read This and

Call Me in the Morning", a prescription for teen substance use prevention \*with cartoons\*. In her writing, training, and public speaking, she uses humor and audience participation to help demystify this topic and encourage critical thinking.

### BRYAN CARR

Bryan Carr is a training consultant and presenter, formerly with Deisinger Consulting, LLC, a professional services firm specializing in operational psychology, behavioral health, and behavioral threat assessment, and currently as an independent consultant. Mr. Carr helps clients evaluate threatening circumstances, manage situations, mitigate risk violence, and enhance the safety and practices of their organizations. His formal education training includes a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Virginia and a Master of Science in Counselor Education from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has a postgraduate professional license in school counseling and an Administration & Supervision/Central Office endorsement through the Virginia Department of Education. Until his retirement in July 2019, he served as the Coordinator of School Counseling Services in Chesterfield County Public Schools, a school district in Virginia with nearly 65,000 students and over 7,000 employees. Before a career in counseling administration, he served as a high school teacher, athletics coach, school counselor, and high school counseling director. In addition to his responsibilities of developing and supervising the school counseling program in CCPS, he was a leader in writing and implementing the district's threat assessment and management protocol. Mr. Carr along with his colleague, Dr. Jim Russo, created the CCPS threat assessment and management training program, educating hundreds of administrators, school counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, and law enforcement partners on best practices and strategies to keep students, staff, and community members safe. Mr. Carr has presented at several workshops, lectures, and conferences on the role of school administration and student support personnel in promoting student achievement, social/emotional learning, and safety including the Virginia School Counselors Conference, the Virginia Counselors Association Convention, the Virginia School Board Association Convention, as well as the Schools of Education at the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, and the College of William and Mary.

## KEITH CARTWRIGHT

Keith Cartwright is the Adverse Childhood Experiences Coordinator for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. In this role, Mr. Cartwright has led a movement that now has over 450 ACE Interface presenters across the state of Virginia. Since 2017, this group has educated over 100,000 Virginians on the impacts of positive and adverse childhood experiences on long-term health and wellness. Mr. Cartwright also serves as the Alcohol and Drug Education Coordinator at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration from The Ohio State University.

## ELLIOTT CASEY

Elliott Casey is a Staff Attorney for the Virginia Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council. Mr. Casey has 15 years' experience as a prosecutor, having served as an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for the County of Albemarle, the City of Alexandria, and the County of Arlington in Virginia, and several more years' experience in law enforcement and as an attorney. A graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, he also served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia. He specializes in digital evidence, Fourth Amendment issues, and complex financial crime. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, is proficient in Spanish, German, and Japanese, and has experience speaking Chinese, French, and Korean. He also instructs law enforcement agencies throughout the Virginia and D.C. area and investigators around the United States. Mr. Casey instructs for the National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project, the National White Collar Crime Center, the National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association, and many other groups.

## JASON CORNWELL

First Lieutenant Cornwell leads the School Safety Division for the Frederick County, Virginia, Sheriff's Office and is a 23-year veteran in law enforcement. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and a Graduate Degree in Management with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. Since taking over the School Safety Division, First Lieutenant Cornwell has helped organize and implement programs such as Tribute Tuesday's – Back the Blue, Shop with a Cop, and Lunch Buddies. He was instrumental in organizing a large-scale active shooter drill, multiple "active attack" tabletop exercises, and annual joint Rescue Task Force training. First Lieutenant Cornwell is a part of the Department of Criminal Justice Services School-Law Enforcement Advisory Committee and Threat Assessment Advisory Committee for the Commonwealth of Virginia. He has been a member of the Frederick County Divisional Threat

Assessment Team for the past four years. First Lieutenant Cornwell holds other positions and certifications such as SWAT Team Leader, ALERRT instructor, Defensive Tactics instructor, Stop the Bleed instructor, and Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events instructor.

## WAYLAND CUBIT

Lt. Wayland Cubit currently serves as the Director of Security for Oklahoma City Public Schools. He is an Oklahoma native with a distinguished career in law enforcement spanning over 26 years. Throughout his journey, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to serving at-risk youth and implementing positive programs that bring about lasting change. Lt. Cubit will kick off the conference with an entertaining and inspirational session that will facilitate self-reflection and a greater understanding of the youth we serve and those with whom we serve.

## FRANK DEANGELIS

Frank DeAngelis, retired principal of Columbine High School, served as an educator for the Jeffco School District in Littleton Colorado, since 1979, starting as a Social Studies teacher and filling the roles of Head Baseball Coach, Assistant Football Coach, Dean of Students, and Assistant Principal, before becoming the principal in 1996. Mr. DeAngelis is a Colorado native, completing his K-12 education in Denver-area schools, graduating with a bachelor's degree in education from Metropolitan State College and a master's degree in Secondary Education and Social Studies from the University of Colorado. He later earned his Principal's License and master's degree from the University of Phoenix. He has been involved in numerous professional activities and associations and has received multiple awards for his teaching, leadership, and coaching skills. A national-level speaker, he has addressed numerous professional and school audiences on the topic of recovery after a school-based tragedy. He has visited, consulted, and assisted school communities across the country following incidents of violence and tragedy, including Platte Canyon, Chardon, Virginia Tech, and Sandy Hook. Mr. DeAngelis received numerous awards and recognitions throughout his lifetime of service as an educator. He was selected as Colorado High School Principal of the Year and was one of the three finalists for National Principal of the Year. He recently received the Jefferson Country Lifetime Achievement Award and the Gandhi, King, Ikeda Community Builders Award. He retired in June of 2014 after 35 years at Columbine High School. He is presently serving as a consultant for safety and emergency management for the Jeffco School District in Colorado and continues to travel nationally and internationally, speaking and consulting.

## COLTON EASTON

Colton Easton came to Safer Schools Together in 2016 after receiving his Diploma in Law Enforcement Studies at the Justice Institute of BC. As a member of the Safer Schools Together team, Mr. Easton specializes in Social Media Awareness and publicly available information gathering. As the Project and Training Manager, he collects social media data that is used to assist schools nationwide in conducting accurate threat assessments. He has been involved in several high-profile cases relating to school safety in Canada and the United States. As a trainer, he presents to police officers, school staff, parents, and students on social media awareness, cyberbullying, and online safety.

## SHELLIE EVERS

Shellie Evers currently serves as the Virginia Center of School and Campus Safety Supervisor for the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in the Division of Public Safety Training and Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety. In partnership with DCJS team members, she supports the Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Behavioral Threat Assessment, and BJA and COPs Grant programs. Mrs. Evers plans the "School Safety Training Forum", manages the division's budget, and assists with special projects and resource development. Before coming to DCJS in 2012, she spent 17 years in Hanover County Public Schools where her responsibilities included emergency planning and safety-related training. She has a bachelor's degree in business from Averett University and a master's degree in public administration from Norwich University.

## MARK FERRO

Mark Ferro currently serves as the Director of Programs and Outreach in the Executive and Administration Division for the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia where he provides program and financial oversight to federal- and state-funded grant programs. After college he joined the Army and was recruited by the Honor Guard, 3rd U.S. Infantry ("The Old Guard" Escort to the President) as a Finance Specialist. In addition to serving on the Governor's Advisory Board on Volunteerism and National Service, he serves the community as the Chair of the Richmond Police Foundation Board, an Advisory Member for the National Center for the Prevention of Community Violence, Director on the Virginia Public Safety Foundation, and as the Treasurer for the Virginia Service Foundation.

## CARLTON GERALD

Carlton Gerald's background in law enforcement in Raleigh, North Carolina, prior to migrating to the Washington D.C. area, prepared him for a new challenge as a Diplomatic Security Protection agent for the Saudi Arabia Ambassador to the United States. Mr. Gerald continues to reaffirm his dedication as a FEMA Certified Instructor, FEMA Multi-hazard Emergency Planning for Schools Train-the Trainer, FEMA Community

Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the Trainer, and as a U.S. Department of Education, REMS TA Center (SME) Threat Assessment Trainer. As a security practitioner, Mr. Gerald is also a member of the American Society of Industrial Security (ASIS) and a proud member of the School Safety Council in service with a community of dedicated security industry leaders, protecting assets, people, property, and information. He currently serves as the Coordinator of Security and Emergency Operations for Alexandria Public Schools.

## KIM HALTERMAN

The first superintendent of Alleghany Highlands Public Schools, Virginia's newest school division, Kim Halterman is proud to be serving her home community, having graduated from Alleghany High School. Recently, she was selected as the Region 6 Superintendent of the Year, and the AHPS consolidation project has received significant honors from the Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia Municipal League. Her degrees and certifications are from Roanoke College, Virginia Tech, and the University of Virginia.

## JIM HARRIS

Dr. Jim Harris is the owner of Opportunities Consulting Services and the Associate Director of the West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall University. He has had several roles in the health and human services field throughout his career as an early interventionist, parent educator, educational consultant, university professor, and behavioral health therapist. Dr. Harris has presented at a variety of conferences from the local to the international levels on such topics as behavioral intervention, parenting, positive behavior support, trauma-informed care, organizational change, and many more. He is the creator of "10 Things You Need to Know About Kids", an audio program that helps parents and teachers be more effective in their work with children. He has also worked with a variety of public and private entities including the Fred Rogers Company, United States Department of Education, the United States Department of Justice, and many more.

## ROB HEFNER

Rob Hefner has over 20 years of law enforcement experience. He has worked for the Culpeper County Sheriff's Office and Salem Police Department. He is currently working at the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office as a D.A.R.E. Officer/ Youth Services Officer. Officer Hefner is also the State D.A.R.E. Program Director and Training Coordinator for Virginia. He has trained over 300 officers in the D.A.R.E. Program during his tenure. Officer Hefner has an extensive background as a School Resource and Crime Prevention Officer as well. Among his accolades, Officer Hefner was selected as the 2017 Virginia D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year and he safely conducted the first D.A.R.E. training in the country after the pandemic.

## VON HILL

Von Hill is a dynamic and engaging speaker with over 30 years of experience as a law enforcement leader, much of it in school law enforcement programs. His school safety and management programs are the industry model for development and collaboration. Mr. Hill has worked across the system as a law enforcement officer with experience in many roles, an educator in hundreds of classrooms to thousands of children, and in the community, a leader for children and families. Mr. Hill is a highly sought-after presenter who teaches across this nation on the topic of school law enforcement partnerships, where he has audiences of state and local community leaders, executives, and first-line professionals. He is also a Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Trainer leading school systems on conducting the threat assessment process. As an executive in his agency, he earned the distinct rank of captain and is the chief of judicial operations, managing the school resource officer unit.

## ADAM KEENE

The DCJS Active Attack Program (AAP) exists to help achieve the goals of preparedness and protection for the entire Commonwealth of Virginia. This statewide initiative promotes safety preparedness through the "Whole Community Approach." The days of citizens hiding and hoping until help arrives are no longer an acceptable form of mitigation. DCJS strives to build a culture of preparedness where each citizen recognizes and takes ownership as a stakeholder in their own safety as Immediate Responders to Avoid, Deny, and Defend against active attacks.

## ANDY KOMASINSKI

Andy Komasinski (she/her/hers) serves as an Outreach Manager for The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC) from headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. Prior to joining the NCMEC family, she served as a law enforcement officer with the Papillion Police Department in Nebraska for seven years. During her law enforcement career, she was the mental health liaison for the department and a trainer in several specialized areas. Prior to that, Ms. Komasinski spent five years establishing and running a school in Haiti, while simultaneously working towards her master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Central Missouri. Ms. Komasinski now channels her experience, training, and education background to share NCMEC's mission and resources with diverse professional audiences.

## DONNA MICHAELIS

Donna Michaelis is the director of the Division of Public Safety Training and Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (PST-VCSCS) at the Virginia Department of Criminal

Justice Services (DCJS). Beginning her career at a local law enforcement agency in 1985, she moved to state government in 1998 and assumed the responsibility of the legislated DCJS VCSCS when first established in 2000. In her role, she provides training, resources, and technical assistance to all schools, colleges, universities, and law enforcement agencies across the Commonwealth on issues related to school and campus safety and specialized law enforcement topics. Mrs. Michaelis is a graduate of the College of William & Mary.

## JACKSON MILLER

Jackson Miller was appointed by Governor Glenn Youngkin as the Director of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) in April 2022. This role is the epitome of a life spent serving in Virginia in the area of criminal justice and public safety. Mr. Miller served as a police officer from 1991 to 2007, spending seven of those years with the Arlington County Police Department and the remaining years with the Prince William County Police Department. He became a police officer in order to protect the streets of the Commonwealth from predators and took that responsibility very seriously. While working as a police officer for Prince William County, he was elected President of the Prince William County Police Association. He took on this leadership position in order to help ensure that officers who had sworn to protect our citizens and were doing so were receiving fair and appropriate treatment. In 2004 he was elected to the Manassas City Council and in 2006 elected to the Virginia House of Delegates for the 50th District. As a member of the House of Delegates, Mr. Miller worked closely with DCJS on various legislative initiatives. As a member of the Courts of Justice Committee, he worked to pass legislation that would help keep citizens safe by deterring crime and applying appropriate punishments. Mr. Miller also served as the Chairman of the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program. In 2011, he was elected by his colleagues into House leadership as the Majority Whip. He served in this position until 2018 when he left office. Since leaving office, Mr. Miller has continued to stay involved in his community by serving on the George Mason Campus Advisory Committee, the Novant Prince William Hospital Board, and the Historic Manassas Inc. Board. He also served as a Captain in the United States Army Reserves from 1989 to 1999. Mr. Miller is a lifelong resident of Virginia and attended Virginia Commonwealth University, graduating in 1989 with a B.S. in Urban Planning.

## KAYLEE POWELL

Kaylee Powell, M.Ed. currently serves as a School Counselor and Threat Assessment Coordinator in a Virginia public school division. She also collaborates with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services in the Division of Public Safety Training and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety to facilitate implementation of the Handle With Care program

in schools and communities. In her time as a school counselor, Ms. Powell has recognized the importance of prioritizing school safety and student mental health through partnerships with local agencies. Her work centers on creating a trauma-informed environment that promotes student success. She earned her bachelor's degree in human development and communications from Virginia Tech and her master's degree in school counseling from the College of William & Mary.

## **JIM RUSSO**

Dr. Jim Russo is an educational training consultant and presenter. He has most recently worked with Dr. Gene Deisinger, President of Deisinger Consulting, to provide training to schools and divisions on threat assessment teams and processes consistent with the Model Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines developed by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). Dr. Russo is also a licensed trainer with the International Institute for Restorative Practices and provides training and consultation to schools and divisions in the implementation of restorative practices. Dr. Russo's formal educational training includes a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, a Master of Science in Psychology, an Educational Specialist degree in School Psychology from Radford University, and a Doctor of Education degree in Counseling and School Psychology from the College of William and Mary. Until his retirement in July 2018, Dr. Russo served as the Coordinator of Psychological Services in Chesterfield County Public Schools (CCPS), a school district in Virginia with nearly 62,000 students and over 7,000 employees. In addition to his Chesterfield County responsibilities for developing and supervising the school psychology program, Dr. Russo was a leader in writing and implementing the district's threat assessment and management protocol. Dr. Russo along with his colleague, Mr. Bryan Carr, created the CCPS threat assessment and management training program, educating hundreds of administrators, school counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, and law enforcement partners on best practices and strategies to keep students, staff, and community members safe. During his employment in Chesterfield, Dr. Russo's additional work experiences included graduate level teaching as an adjunct instructor for Mary Baldwin College and as a Clinical Psychologist in private clinical practice. Dr. Russo is currently licensed as a Clinical Psychologist by the Commonwealth of Virginia, Board of Psychology.

## **MANDI MONTGOMERY SMITH**

As one of the leaders of Timberlake Smith's Education Law practice, Ms. Smith's practice focuses on advising and representing various school boards and regional educational programs in both internal and external matters. Her practice includes the Local Government practice area, where her experience extends to other local government entities, such as

law enforcement agencies, regional entities, and public service authorities. Ms. Smith is noted for her sensible and realistic approach to resolving the wide variety of matters that confront her education and local government clients, including constitutional matters, employment, student rights, contract matters, and other issues unique to government entities in the Commonwealth, such as Freedom of Information Act requests, conflicts of interest, and public procurement law. After earning her B.S. degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1997, Ms. Smith received her J.D. magna cum laude from Washington and Lee University School of Law in 2004. During law school, she clerked in the 25th Judicial Circuit of Virginia for The Honorable George E. Honts, III. She is a member of the Order of the Coif, a national scholastic honor society in law. In addition to practicing law, she teaches several law courses, including constitutional law, business law, and education law, to undergraduate students at Mary Baldwin University.

## **KIM SIMON**

Kim B. Simon served with the King George Sheriff's Office in Virginia in the Uniformed Patrol Division assigned as a School Resource Officer. She has been in the criminal justice field since 1991 and teaching de-escalation, public speaking, general instructor development, and other topics to Virginia's law enforcement community since 2003. In 2015, she collaborated with Delegate Margaret Ransone to bring safety communication skills to kids in Virginia's Northern Neck with Del. Ransone's "Be Proud, Be Protected" program. A Virginia DCJS certified Crime Prevention Specialist, she is the author of "Defense Sense: The Personal Safety Awareness Handbook". She also is a DCJS certified firearms instructor with the RRCJA and the NVCJA and is certified in both CIT and Youth Mental Health First Aid.

## **BRAD STANG**

Brad Stang serves as the Threat Assessment Program Coordinator for the Division of Public Safety Training and the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety (PST-VCSCS) at the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and leads all facets of the program. He has served in this role since 2019. Prior to joining PST-VCSCS, he spent 22 years in public education, 10 years as a middle school social studies teacher, and 12 years as an administrator. Mr. Stang spent his last five years in education as a middle school principal. Throughout his career as an educator, he served on and led both Crisis Management and Threat Assessment Teams. He received his B.S. in Secondary Social Studies Education from the University of Central Florida as well as an M. Ed. in Educational Leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University.

## SANDRA SYLVESTOR

Sandra B. Sylvestor is President/CEO of Superior Global Solutions ("SGS"), a Micro/SWAM business in Chesterfield, Virginia. She grew up in Rochester, New York along with 10 siblings and is the seventh born of 11 children. She enjoys singing, and always has as a young child, and she has had many opportunities to share her talents in various venues. She attended Rochester Institute of Technology and Virginia Commonwealth University and received a degree in accounting. She is married to David A. Sylvester (33 years), and they have one son (age 20). In addition to singing, Ms. Sylvestor enjoys music, spending time growing her business, traveling, and serving in her church and community. Ms. Sylvestor's business has been serving agencies in the Commonwealth since October of 2003. Her company offers many products that range from IT products and peripherals, medical supplies, educational assessments and materials, and various other miscellaneous products. Her business motto is "Whatever It Takes" and this is a true statement of the type of service they offer.

## JEREMY WARD

Jeremy Ward is the Director/Coordinator of Transportation & Emergency Manager at Buchanan County Public Schools.

## MONIQUE WILLIAMS

Monique Williams, MA, is a Professional Speaker, Consultant, and Trainer. She has developed and facilitated numerous trainings and workshops on trauma-informed practices for the Virginia Department of Education, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, Virginia Department of Corrections, and local agencies that serve youth in foster care, residential care, and early childhood education. She offers consulting to schools, public and private agencies, and nonprofits to strengthen youth and family engagement at all levels of service. Her experience in the field of mental health has greatly impacted the services provided to youth and families involved in multiple systems including social services, behavioral health, juvenile justice, and criminal justice. In Ms. Williams' experience, she has provided expertise within the State Office of Children and Family Services at the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) and has served on national demonstration projects funded by the Office of Victims of Crime that focused on the identification and coordination of care for children, youth, and transitioning young adults who have been victimized by a broad spectrum of crimes and other traumatic violent events. As a Training Faculty with the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance Training Institute, Ms. Williams is often requested to facilitate trainings, workshops, and webinars centered on adverse childhood experiences and trauma, resiliency, intergenerational violence and historical trauma, and services to support communities

of color. She most recently began statewide facilitation of the Essential Elements of Collaboration: Behavioral Health & Domestic Violence, a continued advocacy training intended to help build capacity and improve collaboration between domestic violence programs (DVPs) and Community Service Boards (CSBs) in Virginia. As a Nationally Certified Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Instructor and Certified Positive Discipline Educator, Ms. Williams also provides consultation, workshops, and trainings on the use of discipline and behavioral strategies for managing children and adults suffering from mental health crisis and behavioral dysregulation. Her work has been adapted in community-based settings for both families and professionals.

## LORI WOOD

Lori Wood is a Senior Director at Region Ten Community Services Board in Charlottesville, Virginia. She is a graduate of Emory & Henry College and the University of Virginia and is a Licensed Professional Counselor. She is a master instructor with the Thomas Jefferson Area CIT program and has supported development and implementation of CIT programs throughout Virginia. She is trained in hostage negotiation as well as Critical Incident Stress Management and has been a Mental Health First Aid trainer. She conducts local, state, and national trainings on crisis management, risk assessment, stress management, adolescent crisis intervention, program development, and suicide. She has taught law enforcement in-services, CIT and train the trainer classes for over 15 years. She continues to provide consultation services and support training initiatives across the country. She is one of the "founding mothers" of the Lock and Talk Virginia Suicide Prevention program, as well as a founding member and inaugural Chair of the Suicide Prevention & Awareness Resource Council (SPARC). Ms. Wood received a mentorship award from the Central Virginia Lynchburg CIT program, was the 2010 recipient of the CIT Mental Health Advocate Award, the 2017 CIT International Behavioral Healthcare Professional of the Year, and the 2018 Virginia CIT Behavioral Healthcare Professional of the Year. In 2019, she received the John L. Snook Child Advocate Award, and she is the proud mother of four children.

## MATT WOODS

Dr. Matthew Woods has served for more than 13 years assisting students, educators, and schools in a variety of roles. His professional experience includes being a high school social studies teacher, a middle and high school assistant principal, a middle school principal, a director of student support services, assistant superintendent of student services, adjunct professor, and a field instructor for student-teachers. Additionally, is a highly sought-after speaker, consultant, author, and host of the educational podcast, *Leading Out The Woods*.