

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

## SCOTT BRABRAND

Dr. Scott S. Brabrand became the current Executive Director for the Virginia School Board Association (VASS) on July 1, 2022. He was named Executive Director after serving for five years as the Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, the 12th largest school division in the United States, serving approximately 180,000 students. Dr. Brabrand rose through the ranks as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and assistant superintendent in Fairfax before becoming the school division's superintendent. While superintendent, he has led many significant school division achievements. Among them are successfully returning 99.5% of the division's students to in-person instruction during the Pandemic, increasing the graduation from 91% to 94% from 2017–2021, and leading systemic changes in the school division in order for the division's most challenged students to succeed. Prior to his work in Fairfax, he served for five years as superintendent of Lynchburg City Schools, a division of 8,000 students in central Virginia. In Lynchburg his leadership helped increase the Standards of Learning test pass rate in math by almost 14 points and in reading by nine points. He also improved the division's graduation rate by 11% for economically disadvantaged students. Dr. Brabrand is the Past President of VASS, a professional non-profit organization that serves the state's 133 superintendents all of whom are members. As Executive Director, he provides leadership for the professional growth of Virginia's superintendents and promotes advocacy for the improvement of the state's public schools.

## DOUGLAS BROWN

Douglas Brown is a Board Member of both Newport News Public Schools and the Virginia School Boards Association. He is also the Director of Data Science for a leading software company. As a dedicated advocate for public education, Mr. Brown brings a unique perspective as a former educator and a product of public schools himself. He holds a master's degree in Statistics from Stanford University. Since joining the Newport News School Board in 2014, Mr. Brown has focused on increasing the number of students pursuing careers in STEM fields by promoting advanced mathematics courses. He has also played a pivotal role in expanding middle-school sports competitions within Newport News, reflecting his passion for both Mathematics education and Athletics. Mr. Brown firmly believes in the transformative power of public education to foster economic growth both locally and across generations.

## SARAH CALVERIC

People, passion, performance, and process drive Dr. Sarah Calveric's work as Superintendent of Caroline County Public Schools. This "4P" philosophy has undergirded Dr. Calveric's 27-years of educational experience as a special and regular educator, building administrator, Director of Human Resources, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, associate adjunct professor (University of Richmond), and Division Superintendent. Serving on a vast number of local and regional boards and statewide organizations (YMCA, GoVA, Workforce Now, Foundation First, VASCD, WELV, VASS), Dr. Calveric has been described as, "The 'Michael Jordan' of educational leadership: insatiable ambition, steely determination, boundless belief in team, unwavering commitment to excellence, and a work ethic that is second to none!" A graduate of SUNY Geneseo (Bachelors) and Virginia Commonwealth University (Masters/Ph.D.), Dr. Calveric's persistent commitment to access and opportunity for all students, staff, and the community resulted in her being named Virginia's 2023 Region III Superintendent of the Year.

## HEATHER CALVERT

Dr. Heather Calvert is a wife and mother of two. She graduated from Kansas State University in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She later earned her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, her Doctorate in Educational Leadership, and a Certificate of Equity. Dr. Calvert has served as a classroom teacher, Instructional Literacy Coach, Building Leader Intern, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Principal Coach. She has also been an Adjunct Professor at Fort Hays State University. Dr. Calvert has presented on a national level about a variety of topics dealing with education. She has also published numerous articles.

## JOHN CALVERT

John Calvert is a husband of an educator and father of two. He has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and was a full-time Law Enforcement Officer for 12 years. During that time, he was a School Resource Officer for six years. Mr. Calvert is currently the Director of School Safety for the Kansas State Department of Education and a part-time Law Enforcement Officer. Mr. Calvert is a national speaker who focuses on empowering educators, law enforcement, and students to build positive relationships to keep our schools safe. He is recognized by the United States Department of Education's Safe and Secure Schools Unit as a Subject Matter Expert in School Safety.

## JAMES CHRISTIAN

Dr. James Christian is the manager of the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety at the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). In that role, he oversees a team of coordinators and is responsible for training and technical assistance for multiple programs related to school safety in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This includes crisis planning, behavioral threat assessment, school resource officers, school security officers, mental health, suicide, and safety audits. Dr. Christian has over 30 years of experience working in K-12 education, law enforcement, and the military. Prior to his employment with DCJS, he was an alternative school principal, high school assistant principal, special education teacher, vocational teacher, police officer, and an army paratrooper. Dr. Christian has a B.S. in Criminal Justice with a minor in Sociology, an MS.Ed. in Special Education, an M.S. in Criminal Justice: Forensic Psychology, an Ed.S. in Educational Administration, and a Doctorate in Education. He is licensed through the Virginia Department of Education in automotive service technology, K-12 administration, emotional disabilities, intellectual disabilities, and learning disabilities.

## 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, Lt. Cubit 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.

## SHAHRAM FARD

As the Chief of Police and the Director of Public Safety for the City of Falls Church, Shahram Fard provides management and leadership to the City's Police Department, and for developing and implementing policies, practices, and strategies to ensure overall policing and fire safety. Previously, Chief Fard was a Chief Deputy with the Alexandria Sheriff's Office and served 26 years with the Alexandria Police Department, rising to the rank of Deputy Chief of Police. Chief Fard is a past Visiting Law Enforcement Executive Fellow with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and is an appointed Co-Chair of the IACP's Police Administration Committee. He is a member of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP), the FBI National Academy Associates Association (FBINAA), and the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). Chief Fard holds a Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from Johns Hopkins University, where he was recognized as a Society of Excellence

Inductee. He is a Certified Public Manager through the George Washington University and holds an undergraduate Certificate in Criminal Justice Education from the University of Virginia. Chief Fard is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the Senior Management Institute for Police, and the DEA Drug Unit Commander's Academy.

## 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.

## JOHN JONES

John Jones is the long serving Executive Director of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, having served in that capacity since 1977. He is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University in Administration of Justice and Public Safety and a former adjunct faculty member of Germanna Community College. Early after graduation, he served as the criminal justice planner with the Rappahannock-Rapidan Planning District Commission for the regional around Culpeper Virginia as the Criminal Justice Planner. Director Jones started his public safety career at a very young age of 16 as an emergency dispatcher for the South Hill, Virginia police department before 911 systems existed and was responsible for dispatching law enforcement and emergency services to rural south side Virginia. He currently manages one of the most influential criminal justice organizations in Virginia with 122 sheriff and 8,500 deputy sheriff members. His primary responsibilities include managing the legislative priorities for Virginia's sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, with hundreds of bills and budget amendments passed due to his efforts. His other duties include delivery of two annual professional/training conferences to sheriffs and deputy sheriffs featuring the latest in trends and recent legislation. He was appointed by the Virginia Senate Privileges and Elections Committee to serve on a Virginia General Assembly study to recommend ways to improve the flow of legislation. Many of those recommendations are currently in use today as a part

of the House and Senate rules. He maintains a professional relationship with the National Sheriffs' Association, having served as chairman of the National Sheriffs' Association, Committee of State Sheriffs Associations.

### **JACKSON MILLER**

Jackson Miller was appointed by Governor Glenn Youngkin as the Director of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services 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 the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services 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, he 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.

### **JEREMY RALEY**

Dr. Jeremy Raley served as superintendent of Goochland County Public Schools for seven years before joining the Virginia Department of Education as Chief of Staff. He began his public education career in Shenandoah County as a physical education teacher and subsequently served as a principal and then as division superintendent.

### **STEWART ROBERSON**

Following his retirement as superintendent of Hanover County Public Schools in 2011, Dr. Stewart Roberson served as the firm's president, CEO, and chair of the board of directors. In his role as chair of the board of directors, he leads the board and shareholders while promoting the firm's growth strategy, strategic plan, and client engagement. Dr. Roberson served as a Virginia school superintendent for 21 years in Falls Church and Hanover. While in his role as Hanover's Superintendent, he worked closely with the Hanover Sheriff, Ashland Police Chief, School Board, and many others to promote school safety and a positive school climate.

### **DANA SCHRAD**

Ms. Dana G. Schrad has been the Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police & Foundation since January 1996, where she oversees the operations of the Association and the development of training programs for law enforcement executives and also advocates on policing and criminal justice issues on behalf of the Association and Virginia law enforcement in general. She also is the Executive Director for the Virginia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators. In 2014, Ms. Schrad was appointed to the Governor's Board of Juvenile Justice. She also sits on the boards of DRIVE SMART Virginia and the Virginia Center for Policing Innovation. She is a former member of the Special Olympics Virginia Board of Directors. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska journalism school and the University of Richmond T. C. Williams School of Law. She has taken doctoral courses at Virginia Commonwealth University and has taught Constitutional Law and Current Criminal Justice Issues for the Bluefield College criminal justice undergraduate program. Ms. Schrad was Staff Attorney for the Virginia State Crime Commission from 1989 until 1996, where she was in charge of a variety of criminal justice and law enforcement studies and ran a Drug Trafficking Study task force for two years. She directed a study of drug courts and worked as part of a team to help localities develop drug court programs. Ms. Schrad staffed Lt. Governor Don Beyer's Commission on Sexual Assault for two years, where she participated in the revision of a number of sexual assault and family violence laws and the drafting of Virginia's sex offender registry statute. Prior to entering law school, she worked at a CBS television affiliate for ten years, where she was a police beat reporter, Executive Producer, and Assignment Editor.