

There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.

-Colin Powell

Meet the Newest Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board Members



Jennifer Morgan, GO Virginia

Jennifer Morgan, Economic Development Coordinator for the George Washington Regional Commission and GO Virginia Region 6 Coordinator, graduated from James Madison University's Master in Public Administration in 2018 with a focus on Community and Economic Development.

As the GO Virginia Region 6 Coordinator, Jennifer works with regional stakeholders to find collaborative ways to spur job creation and grow the regional economy from a ground up approach.

In her free time, you can find her walking her German Shepard rescue, exploring different regions of the state, and enjoying all that Virginia has to offer.

Ben Whanger, Rivah Lawn and Landscaping

Ben Whanger was born and raised in Newport News, Virginia. His parents, Donna and Richard Whanger are retired public school teachers and instilled in their son a strong work ethic.

Ben has been in the landscaping industry for over 20 years; working for various companies from North Carolina to Virginia along with owning two of his own. He currently owns Rivah Lawn and Landscape located in Essex County, VA and will soon be moving to Northumberland County, VA.

A 27-year cancer survivor of Leukemia and Testicular Leukemia, Ben isn't a stranger to what it takes to push through hard times and rejoice at the small accomplishments. He gives back to the cause by having served as Logistics Coordinator for Relay for Life of the Peninsula, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society: Light the Night and His Generation, a Christian based organization that brings Christian music to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Ben met his fiancée Blaire and her four children, who gave him the name Major Ben, in 2019. Several months later, Ben moved to Essex County and created Rivah Lawn and Landscape. He is excited for 2022, when Blaire and he will marry and move into their new home in Northumberland County.

Ben's passion for the landscape industry and the employee crisis in this state is real. He used to be a recruiter for a medium sized Landscape Business in Virginia Beach, Virginia where he made lasting connections with the Virginia Employment Commission, Virginia Career Works and several other organizations. Knowing what it takes to get exceptional employees in the door and trained during a pandemic and this past year of recovery has been no exception to show Ben's dedication to this craft. Ben opened his business during COVID and celebrated one year in business in June 2021. He looks forward to the success in store for his crew and clients. Determination, perseverance and a positive outlook, drive Ben to bring the best customer service there is to offer!



Beverly Davis, Gravities Light

I am Beverly Davis, representing Accomack County on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, and for the sake of this Bio, please call me Bev. I am the owner and operator of a very unique boutique name Gravities Light for 18 years which holds the distinction of being the only one of its kind in Accomack County selling Urban chic clothing. I left the shore at an early age graduating from High School in Brooklyn, New York and later earning my degree from NYU majoring in Library Science after extensive foreign and domestic traveling as a military dependent. I chose to work for the Bell system and after 33 passionate and loyal years I retired in 2003 returning from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to the shore planning to spend time with family and friends.

Home on the shore was fulfilling and operating my business allowed me the opportunity to work in the community meeting various county officials and gaining an understanding of what I could offer to the young population in the county. Gravities Light sponsored for many years a give away Prom dress program and if families faced any distress such as losing valuables from house fires, flooding, and domestic violence, clothing was donated to the families at no cost. I sponsored adopting a teacher program for a select school providing that teacher with additional supplies not given through the school district. This program was a brainstorm started by a friend of mine who has now gone on to gain her wings.

I am very honored to be appointed to the Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board because it will truly give me a chance to help partner with the Virginia Employment Commission to help the people in my county gain better job skills and be more prepared to step out in the work force.

I held a Union officer position for Communication Workers of America for over 10 years before I retired where I was trained at the George Meany Labor institute in Silver Springs Maryland. The Union work helped train me to understand many labor laws and gave me an appreciation for doing the job right the first time. The class that I attended was in session on September 11, 2001.

Lastly, I am a very proud grand mother of five grand children who know exactly how to twist me around their fingers. They all take turns performing that task, including the Wheaton terrier in the family name Bruno that I labeled my grand dog. Currently I am a widow as of 2016, and I live alone but quite busy most days. I have two daughters, one is a Media Specialist for Norfolk Public Schools otherwise known as a school librarian, and my youngest daughter was actually the creator who helped me get the store started in 2003. She now works for the City of Norfolk Va, procurement office. The girls and I are a Jeep family as we all own Jeep vehicles and hopefully 2022 will all go off roading in North Carolina. It's a Jeep thing!

Let's get started folks! I'm ready!



Resource Room Availability

Virginia Career Works Fredericksburg Center
Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Call 540-513-9182

Virginia Career Works Northern Neck Center
Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 3:30 pm
Call 804-333-4048 ext. 5

Virginia Career Works Eastern Shore Center
By Appointment Only
Call 757-302-2029

[Click Here to See a List of Available Services & Contact Information](#)



To register for the free COVID-19 vaccine, and check your registration status, please check Vaccinate Virginia at:

<https://vaccinate.virginia.gov/>
or call 877-829-4682

Do you have anxiety or stress related to COVID-19?
Call or text VA COPES, a free and confidential COVID-19 support line:
877-349-6428
Monday - Friday 9:00am to 9:00pm
Saturday - Sunday 5:00pm to 9:00pm
Spanish speakers are available.

VaccineFinder

VaccineFinder helps you find clinics, pharmacies, and other locations that offer COVID-19 vaccines in the United States.

<https://vaccinefinder.org/>

Information Related to COVID-19

If you have lost employment and seek to apply for Unemployment Compensation, please click on this link to apply online at the [Virginia Employment Commission website](#) or call the VEC Customer Contact Center by calling 1-866-832-2363, Monday through Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm.

[Tutorial Video - "How to File an Unemployment Claim on the Virginia Workforce Connection website"](#)

The Workforce Board staff continues to monitor the situation; any updates will be posted to the [BCWDB website](#) and the [Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board Facebook page](#). At this time, prevention, social separation and preparation are the best courses of action, and the BCWDB encourages all customers, staff, and community members to follow the CDC recommended hygiene and social distancing practices.

[Virginia Department of Social Services COVID-19 Resources](#)

Please feel free to contact us with any questions at:

Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board
P.O. Box 1117
Warsaw, VA 22572
(804) 333-4048
[Contact us online](#)