

Conaway B. Haskins III

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Summary: Energetic leader with 15+ years of experience helping government, nonprofit & academic institutions navigate economic development and public policy issues at the local, state and national levels.

PROFESSIONAL

Center for Innovative Technology, Richmond, VA – Director, Entrepreneurial Ecosystems – since Jun. 2021

Advises, supports, and funds statewide and regional technology-based and innovation-led economic development initiatives across Virginia. Assists with the administration and promotion of grant and sponsorship programs supporting applicants and recipients in all phases. Designs and manages division's public-facing profile including unit websites, social media platforms, and a statewide entrepreneurship information portal. Facilitate, organize and support events and conferences intended to strengthen regional activities. Works with organizational leadership to establish annual strategic plans, operating plans and budgets for the division.

Virginia Tech, Arlington, VA – Adjunct Professor – since May 2021

Serves as part-time instructor of record for professional master's degree courses in the Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability. Produces content for social media and assists with faculty research efforts.

Virginia Tech, Richmond, VA – Multiple Positions - Dec. 2016-May 2021

- **Associate Director, VT Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation – Jan. 2021-May 2021**
- **State Extension Specialist for Economic Development – Dec. 2016-May 2021**

Led applied research, technical assistance, policy advisory, and professional education initiatives serving government, nonprofit, business, and university stakeholders that enhance the economic development, cultural vitality and sustainability of communities and regions. Appointed as a Fellow of the VT Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability and as a Faculty Affiliate of the VT Center for Economic and Community Engagement. Served as a liaison to several state and national community and economic development organizations.

Virginia Community Economic Network, Richmond, VA – Executive Director – Jan. 2014-Dec. 2016

Served as first CEO of a statewide nonprofit advocacy, education and research organization promoting entrepreneurship, placemaking and social innovation strategies for economic development and community revitalization. Created and managed all operations including program design, board development, financial management, fundraising, media communications, and event planning. Advised local, state and federal policymakers and practitioners on emerging issues and launched pilot projects with state and national organizations. Successfully executed organizational hosting and program merger agreements with Virginia Tech.

Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA – Executive Director, Government & External Affairs – 2012-2014

Served as principal government relations and economic development liaison to local, state, and federal officials successfully leading efforts to secure favorable public policies and new funding for the university. Led reorganization of, and managed staff in, the university's Sponsored Research, Government and Business Relations, and Economic Development units. Appointed as Acting Co-Lead of the Office of Institutional Advancement and as an Adjunct Instructor in Political Science.

Council on Foundations, Arlington, VA – Project Director, Public-Philanthropic Partnerships– 2011-2012

Managed national-level initiatives connecting philanthropic grantmakers to federal agencies. Served as primary liaison to the National Fund for Workforce Solutions, staffed the Workforce Matters Funders Network, designed and secured funding for the Nonprofit Media Working Group, and supported Congressional outreach activities.

Office of U.S. Senator Jim Webb, Richmond, VA & Washington, DC – Multiple Positions – 2007-2011

- **State Director, Jan. 2009-May 2011**
- **Deputy State Director, Jan. 2007-Jan. 2009**

Led statewide constituent service, community relations, and economic development activities of six regional offices. Supervised a 15-person staff of outreach representatives, caseworkers, and office assistants. Served as lead liaison to Virginia business, government, political and civic organizations. Advised Legislative and Communications staff on state and local policy issues. Managed Military Service Academy appointments and federal grants assistance efforts.

The Cameron Foundation, Petersburg, VA – Senior Program Officer – 2004-2007

Managed a multimillion dollar grant portfolio supporting public and nonprofit organizations serving the Metro Richmond region. Served as lead staffer for the community & economic development, civic affairs, and cultural arts program areas. Designed regional nonprofit capacity-building initiative and a Board matching-gifts program.

The Aspen Institute, Washington, DC – Research Associate – 2002-2004

Conducted policy research and program evaluation for Economic Opportunities Program initiatives to expand workforce development, entrepreneurship, and capital access opportunities. Managed event and travel planning.

EDUCATION

Virginia Tech – PhD, Planning, Governance & Globalization – May 2022 (expected; in-progress)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Master of Regional Planning – May 2002

George Mason University – Bachelor of Arts, Government & Politics (with honors & distinction) – May 1999

SERVICE

Community: Virginia Economic Developers Association – Chair, Professional Development Committee; Chesterfield County Public Schools Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee – Member

Previous: Center for a Better South - Board of Directors; Greater Richmond Community Foundation – Ujima Legacy Fund, Grants Committee; George Mason University Alumni Association – Board of Directors; Virginia Public Access Project – Board of Directors; Communities in School of Virginia – Board of Directors; Richmond Folk Festival - Programming Committee; Virginia Minority Political Leadership Institute - Advisory Board

PUBLICATIONS

Haskins, C. 2021(forthcoming). “Enhancing Place through Public Art in the Metropolitan Exurbs.” In *Vibrant Virginia: Engaging the Commonwealth to Expand Economic Vitality and Inclusivity*; Virginia Tech Publishing; Blacksburg, VA.

Haskins, C. 2020, “State Agency COVID-19 Resources for Community and Economic Development.” Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Tech

Haskins, C. 2020. “Creating Websites to Support Entrepreneurship: Insights from SourceLink Virginia.” Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Tech.

Haskins, C. 2020. “Connecting to Economic Development Resources: A Guide for Virginia Entrepreneurs.” Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Tech.

Haskins, C. 2019. “Sustainable Cities Series, Part 3: Localizing the Global Urban Agenda in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.” Arlington, VA: Virginia Tech.

Haskins, C. 2018. “Growing Local Economies through Entrepreneurship: A Guide for Community Leaders.” Blacksburg, VA: Virginia Tech.

HONORS & AWARDS

- The Extension Foundation, Innovation Facilitator, 2019-2021
- Virginia Cooperative Extension, Evaluation Fellowship Program, 2018-2019
- Virginia Governor's Council on Social Enterprise and Impact Investing, 2015-2017
- White House Office of Public Engagement - State Leaders Program - 2011–2012
- *Richmond Magazine* - "51 People to Watch in 2009"
- University of Virginia Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership - Political Leadership Fellow, 2006
- Southeastern Council of Foundations - Robert H. Hull Leadership Fellow, 2006