

I have been a member of VCA since my first year in graduate school at Lynchburg College, which was 29 years ago. So much has happened professionally over those years and VCA has been instrumental in all of it.

I currently work as the counselor at Concord Elementary School in Campbell County as well as serving my twenty-seventh year in the role of County Supervisor of Counseling Programs. In this position I work with twenty-two of the finest counselors in the state. I spent three years as a Counselor Educator at Lynchburg College and still provide adjunct services. I have also worked as a school counselor at the secondary and elementary levels. In my "prior" life I was an educator in Virginia and Australia.

Over the years I have served on numerous committees for VCA including Advocacy, Awards, Convention Planning and have acted as the Chapter Council Chair. I am currently enjoying the position of Division Council Chair and sit on the VCA Foundation Board. My membership in Divisions includes VSAC, VACES and VCDA. I have been on the board of my local chapter, Lynchburg Area Counselors, for over seventeen years and have been President of the Chapter twice. I was fortunate to be able to work with the initial leadership team that assisted in the creation of VASC. Currently my other professional memberships include the Association for Play Therapy, American Counseling Association, Chi Sigma Iota, and Mental Health America of Central Virginia.

I have had the opportunity to work at the state level on counselor and career initiatives. Providing workshops and trainings across the state on topics such as school climate, conflict resolution, anti-bullying initiatives, working with challenging students and play therapy in schools is a favorite past time. It has been my honor to receive the VCA Van Hoose Career Service Award, Chapter Member of the Year, ACA Emerging Leader, CSI Fellowship Award and Educator of the Year from the Altavista Chamber of Commerce.

The Virginia Counselors Association is an extraordinary organization with unlimited talent. It would be my honor to serve as your President-Elect. In doing so I would strive to serve by providing the needed support to achieve the goals of our strategic plan. Our strength lies with a united membership. Forging relationships within VCA, as well as other organizations around the state, would be a priority. We must continue to reach out to counselors in all settings across the state and provide them with the professional development, advocacy and support needed to grow our profession.