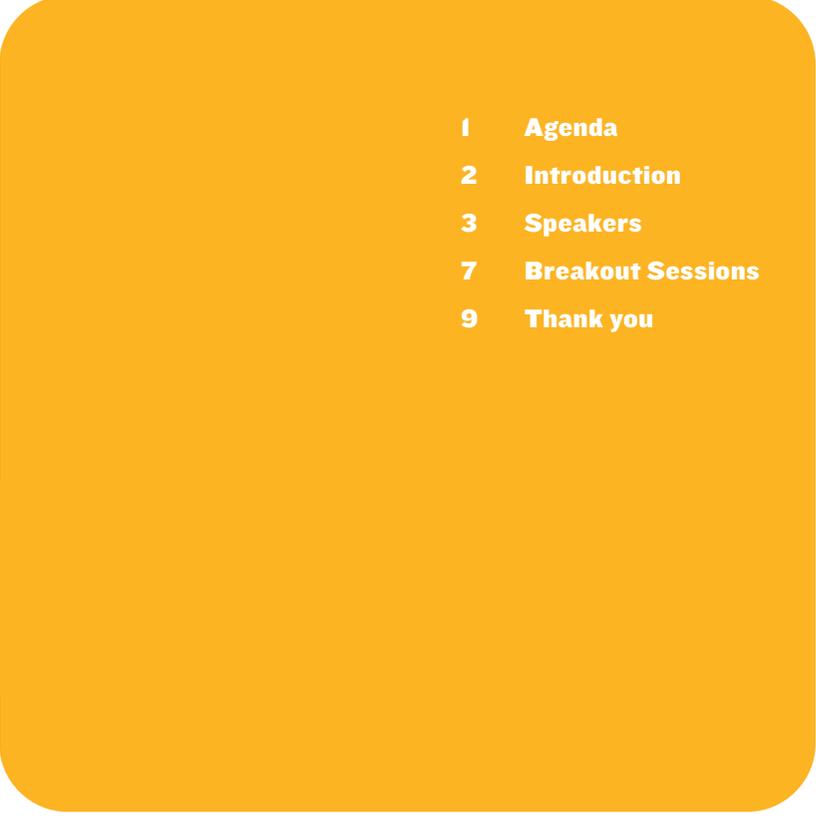




THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE

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 - 2 Introduction**
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8:30 Registration and Breakfast

9:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Kenneth Gilliam, Jr., Policy Associate, The Commonwealth Institute

Moving Forward: Advancing a Progressive Agenda During the 2018 Legislative Session and Beyond

Michael Cassidy, President & CEO, The Commonwealth Institute

10:00 Breakout Session I

Advancing Racial Justice Through Public Policy and Advocacy

Words Matter: Findings from the Field About What Resonates with Va's Growing Majority

Making Progress on State Tax Policy

11:15 Breakout Session II

Unequal Opportunities: Addressing Resource Challenges in High Poverty Schools

Advocacy in Action: Effective Engagement with Virginia's Legislature

Lessons from Virginia's Anti-Poverty Initiatives and How Virginia Can Do More

12:30 Closing Plenary

The Honorable Terry McAuliffe, Governor of Virginia

A seated luncheon will be served.

1:30 Closing Remarks



From TCI President and CEO, Michael Cassidy



Welcome to the 4th Annual Policy Summit!

Now that the 2017 elections have passed, all eyes are on the opportunity in front of us to make real progress on key issues critical to working families in Virginia. It's a long list: expanding access to quality affordable health care, advancing protections for workers, providing adequate funding for K-12 education, advancing racial justice ... the list goes on.

Today we'll take stock of what the election means for these and other policy priorities. We'll hear from policy experts, thought leaders, and veteran organizers and advocates on the long march toward justice. And we'll network to renew existing connections, establish new partnerships, and strengthen our coalitions.

We're very excited you're here! We look forward to working together to build equitable opportunity and an economy that works for everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Cassidy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The name "Michael" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Cassidy" is written in a smaller, more compact script. The signature is enclosed in a large, thin, black bracket that starts under the first letter of "Michael" and extends down to the end of "Cassidy".



Thomas Calhoun is the President of the Norfolk Federation of Teachers. He graduated from Maury High School and received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Norfolk State University. He taught as an elementary teacher and served as a building representative for 16 years before becoming NFT President.



Michael Cassidy is the founder and President of The Commonwealth Institute. He provides the vision, inspiration, and strategic management to achieve the organization's goals of a more prosperous Virginia and greater economic opportunity for all Virginians. Under his leadership, TCI has grown from a small startup into the state's leading independent voice on state fiscal and economic policy issues.



Chris Duncombe is a Senior Policy Analyst at The Commonwealth Institute and leads TCI's analytical work on public education and workforce training. Before joining the Institute, he worked for Virginia's Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission where he investigated workforce development programs and looked for opportunities for schools and local governments to partner in providing services.



Michael L. Edwards joined Kemper Consulting in 2011. Before that he was Deputy Director of the Virginia Association of Counties and previously served as the Executive Director of the Foundation for Virginia, the Deputy Executive Director of the Virginia Municipal League, and as the Legislative Liaison for Arlington County. A transportation policy assistant in the Baliles and Wilder administrations, he also served on the gubernatorial transition teams for Governors Warner, Kaine and McAuliffe.



Julie Emery is the Executive Director of the Virginia Civic Engagement Table (VCET), an organization that strengthens and connects Virginia’s progressive nonprofits. VCET is affiliated with State Voices. Prior to leading VCET, she was the state Political Director for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Virginia 512.



Evan Feinman is the Executive Director of the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission. He previously served as Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources for Governor McAuliffe, the McAuliffe campaign’s Policy Director, and as Deputy Policy Director for the Governor’s transition team. Prior to that he worked on multiple campaigns at the state and federal level and led the Better Choices for Virginia campaign at The Commonwealth Institute.



Reggie Gordon is Director of the Office of Community Wealth Building for the City of Richmond. In prior roles he served as Executive Director of Homeward and of William Byrd Community House, and was also the CEO of the Greater Richmond Chapter of the American Red Cross.



Laura Goren is the Research Director for The Commonwealth Institute. Her own portfolio includes analyzing macroeconomic conditions in Virginia and safety net programs and executing the Institute’s growing work assessing the role of immigrants in Virginia.



Dr. Oliver Hill, Jr. is a Professor of Psychology at Virginia State University. He is the son of Oliver Hill, Sr., one of the civil rights lawyers involved in the *Brown v. Board of Education* court case. At the age of 12, he was among the first students to desegregate schools in Richmond, Virginia.



Rodney Jordan is Chair of the Norfolk School Board. He is also the Director of Community Impact at One Economy Corporation, a global non-profit organization that leverages the power of technology and connects underserved people around the world to vital information.



Jennifer McClellan is a Virginia State Senator representing the City of Richmond and part of Henrico. She serves on the Senate Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources; Local Government; and Transportation Committees. Prior to being elected to the Senate in 2017, she served in the Virginia House of Delegates for 11 years.



Annie McKay is President & CEO of Kansas Action for Children. Prior to that she was Executive Director of the Kansas Center for Economic Growth where she led the charge to roll back Gov. Sam Brownback's damaging tax experiment. She also currently serves on the Kansas Children's Cabinet and is an advocacy fellow at the Sunflower Foundation.



Sookyung Oh is the D.C. Area Director for the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) where she leads organizing and campaign work in Virginia. In her prior roles she was a Public Policy Analyst at the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees and was a policy fellow at The Commonwealth Institute.



Dr. Edward H. Peeples is Emeritus Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at Virginia Commonwealth University where he taught for more than 30 years. He is the author of *Scalawag: A White Southerner's Journey through Segregation to Human Rights Activism*. He has spent most of his adult life as a civil rights advocate in Virginia and other places in the south, and has made academic contributions in the fields of medical behavioral science, public health, epidemiology and sociology.



Dr. Keith Perrigan is the Division Superintendent of Bristol County Public Schools where he is dedicated to building Bristol's future one student at a time. He has more than 22 years experience in public education in Virginia including 9 years as Principal at Patrick Henry High School. He has worked in Washington County, Bristol City and Norton City throughout his career.



Anna Scholl is the founding Executive Director of Progress Virginia, and is a leading voice in Virginia's progressive majority. Before that she was an associate at Kennedy Communications in Washington, D.C. where her work ran the gamut from research to direct mail to online communications.



Katherine Wheatle is a Research Analyst at the Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP). Her work focuses on equity in postsecondary education policy, specifically including the history of federal and state higher education policy and the use of data to improve student outcomes. Prior to joining IHEP, she was a project associate with the National Survey for Student Engagement and a consultant for the Office of Postsecondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education.

Salon F & G

Advancing Racial Justice Through Public Policy and Advocacy

Virginia's diverse communities are cornerstones of our state's economy. Yet systemic racism and inequality hinder communities of color from accessing all of the tools they need to succeed. In this session, we will define what racial justice is, and discuss its role in the policy landscape and how policy leaders, advocates, and organizations can work to advance public policies that are fair, just, and equitable for all Virginians.

Moderator: **Katherine Wheatle**

Speakers: **Dr. Oliver Hill, Jr., Sookyung Oh, Dr. Edward Peeples**

Salon B

Words Matter: Findings from the Field About What Resonates with Virginia's Growing Majority

When it comes to getting our point across, the words we choose can mean the difference between getting people tuned in or turned off. Come find out what the most recent findings tell us about messaging that resonates with key audiences for the long haul.

Speaker: **Anna Scholl**

Salon A

Making Progress on State Tax Policy

A discussion about advancing better state tax policies and building the support for public investments with keys lessons from Kansas and from past successes in Virginia.

Speakers: **Mike Edwards, Annie McKay**

Salon F & G

Unequal Opportunities: New Findings on Challenges for Students in High Poverty Communities

High poverty schools face significant challenges attracting and retaining teachers and providing necessary instructional resources for students. In this session, we will discuss new TCI analysis in a review of educational opportunities in over 1,800 public schools, and hear from local school leaders in urban and rural areas of the state as we look for strategies to overcome these challenges and give every student a shot at their career ambitions.

Moderator: **Thomas Calhoun**

Speakers: **Chris Duncombe, Rodney Jordan, Keith Perrigan**

Salon E

Advocacy in Action: Effective Engagement with Virginia's Legislature

Learn the behind the scenes tips and tricks for getting access to legislators, coordinating advocacy groups, and creating tactical messaging tailored to influence legislators.

Speakers: **Julie Emery, Senator Jennifer McClellan**

Salon A

Tackling Opportunity Locally: Lessons from Virginia's Anti-Poverty Initiatives and How Virginia Can Do More

Cities and counties across Virginia are experimenting with how to reduce poverty and build opportunity for families and communities. This session will include lessons from community wealth-building and economic development in urban and rural areas of Virginia and include discussion of how the state can better partner with local governments on these efforts.

Moderator: **Laura Goren**

Speakers: **Evan Feinman, Reggie Gordon**

Special thanks to our sponsors for making this event possible.



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Virginia Education Association

We are dedicated to advancing the well-being of Virginia communities and improving the economic security and social opportunities of all Virginians, and we rely on the generous support of numerous individuals like you to ensure that the voices of middle class and low-income Virginians are front and center in public policy debates.

To learn more about giving options and ways you can support our work, visit thecommonwealthinstitute.org, or call 804-396-2051.



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