



From the Executive Director's Desk

First Month On the Job

Happy New Year! I have been your Executive Director for one month, and in that time I have been given a glimpse of how exciting 2018 will be for The Virginia Rural Center.

I have spent the last month traveling all around rural Virginia, meeting with legislators, board members and stakeholders. My travels have taken me to Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Gloucester, Harrisonburg, Staunton, Goochland, Verona, Newport News, Henrico and had the opportunity to meet with a stakeholder in my own hometown of Hanover!

These meetings have proven to be highly valuable, allowing me the opportunity to learn more about the history of The Center, get feedback on what we have done well, discuss areas for improvement and how to continue to build upon our success. I enjoyed meeting many of our board members at our December meeting, and for those of you that I haven't yet had the privilege to meet, I will look forward to doing so in the near future.

I have also spent significant time in Richmond monitoring and participating in meetings that are pertinent to rural Virginia. I have attended meetings that cover topics such as: economic development, GO Virginia initiatives and workforce development...just to name a few!

Upcoming Events

- **January 10, 2018**
Virginia General Assembly Convenes
- **January 17, 2018**
Rural Caucus Meeting
- **January 24, 2018**
Rural Caucus Meeting
- **January 31, 2018**
Rural Caucus Meeting
- **February 7, 2018**
Rural Caucus Reception & Dinner
- **February 13, 2018**
Crossover
- **February 14, 2018**
Rural Caucus Meeting
- **February 21, 2018**
Rural Caucus Meeting
- **February 28, 2018**
Rural Caucus Meeting
- **March 7, 2018**
Rural Caucus Meeting
- **March 10, 2018**
Sine Die
- **April 18, 2018**
Virginia General Assembly Reconvene Session



NEXT BOARD MEETING
April 27, 2018
Location: TBD



Rural Caucus Reception & Dinner

Please make plans to join us for the annual Rural Caucus Reception and Dinner!

INVITED KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Governor-elect Northam

WHEN: Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Reception: 5:30 p.m.

Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Omni Richmond Hotel
100 S. 12th Street, Richmond, VA

REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.cfrv.org/2018-rural-caucus-dinner>

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

CONTACT KRISTIE PROCTOR

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"To be a Virginian either by birth, marriage, adoption, or even on one's mother's side, is an introduction to any state of the Union, a passport to any foreign country, and a benediction from above."-Anonymous.

Media Spotlight

The news outlets below shared our press release regarding the Executive Director announcement. We will continue to search for opportunities to gain earned media, allowing The Center to become a known media source for rural Virginia.

Farmville Herald

<http://www.farmvilleherald.com/2017/12/proctor-becomes-director/>

Emporia News

<http://www.emporianews.com/article/virginia-rural-center-names-kristie-helmick-proctor-executive-director>

WFLO, 95.7FM Farmville Radio Station

<http://www.wflo.net/?p=4227>

Shore Daily News

<http://shoredailynews.com/helmick-appointed-new-executive-director-of-center-for-rural-virginia/>

The News Castle Record

<https://www.newcastlerecord.com/local-stories/virginia-rural-center-names-kristie-helmick-proctor-executive-director/>

Salem Times-Register

<https://saletimes->

Rural Caucus

The Virginia Rural Center will host weekly rural caucus meetings throughout the entire General Assembly session, starting on Wednesday January 17, 2017.

These meetings will occur every Wednesday at 5pm in the Pocahontas building, Subcommittee Room #2.

We encourage legislators, board meetings and stakeholders to attend these valuable meetings!

Speakers Include (This List Will Grow):

- Governor-elect Northam (invited)
- Cabinet Secretariats (invited)
- Stephen Moret, President & CEO, Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP)
- Erik Johnston, Incoming Director for Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
- Representatives from the Virginia Rural Education Association
- Katie Frazier, President, Agribusiness Council
- Martha Moore, Vice President, Virginia Farm Bureau
- Nicole Riley, Virginia State Director, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)