



OCWB INSIDER

The Office of Community Wealth Building's Official Newsletter

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Feature



Caprichia Smith Spellman is Named OCWB's New Director

Senior Nonprofit and Public Sector Leader Caprichia Spellman is the Office of Community Wealth Building's new Director.

"She served the department well as its Interim Director during a complex period of transition," affirms the City's Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Human Services, Reggie Gordon.

Mrs. Spellman originally joined OCWB as the Economic and Community Development Administrator where she provided oversight for the Workforce Development program and Career Stations that serve 18,000 residents each year.

"My success in both roles truly reflects the team's creativity, efforts, resilience, and talent," says Mrs. Spellman.

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OCWB has a New Director, contd.

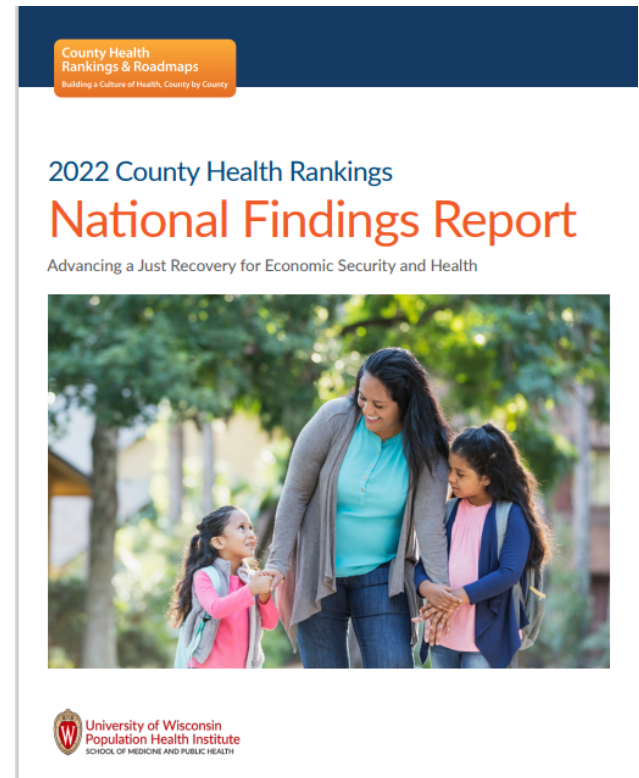
Caprichia empowered OCWB staff to continue providing service delivery of workforce services during the pandemic. They expanded the network of training providers to create pathways for in-demand careers in industries such as cybersecurity, solar power, carpentry, and energy applying non-traditional methods of instruction when necessary. In addition, the team worked to increase and diversify virtual workforce session offerings. They also implemented new ways to improve access to services for residents in partnership with the City's Ambassadors and the Richmond Public Libraries, especially those impacted by the digital divide.

Mrs. Spellman obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VA Tech) and earned a Master of Divinity from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University.

Caprichia's greatest passions are guiding the professional development of staff, mentoring people, and working alongside team members on issues of equity and economic mobility.

"I am looking forward to inspiring workforce innovation and systems change that will reduce the impact of poverty on Richmond's residents," says Mrs. Spellman.

The Richmond Resilience Initiative is Profiled in a National Health Ranking Report



The Richmond Resilience Initiative Pilot was profiled in the annual County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2022 National Health Findings report, released and generated by the Burness Group.

The Burness Group is a team of veteran communications, media, and policy experts who work with digital strategists, designers, writers, and producers to create and execute communication strategies that move issues and elevate organizations.

The report highlights examples of communities implementing solutions to support families.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full report.

43 Enrolled at the OCWB and CCWA Career and Training Fair

The Spring Career and Training Fair 2022 at Reynolds College, hosted by the Office of Community Wealth Building (OCWB) and the Community College Workforce Alliance (CCWA) on Friday, April 29, 2022 was a success! We helped 44 people that day. "Every time someone comes across our threshold, we go to work for them," says Barrier Navigator Janette Sivells-McGrady.



(left to right) Barrier Navigator Supervisor, Sherrilyn Hicks, Participant, Claude, Barrier Navigators Wilma Harris and Janette Sivells-McGrady

OCWB Continues to Expand Access to Workforce Services in the Community

Last month, OCWB added the Armstrong Renaissance Apartment Complex in the East End of Richmond to the roster of mobile workforce service stations offered in the community. Hosting Partners include Richmond Public Library and J&G Workforce Services. Whether a resident is looking for their next career or needs additional training to remain competitive in the labor market, our program offers robust possibilities. Richmond residents are able to meet with a Barrier Navigator from one of the Career Stations to begin their journey. Our team will be adding more locations throughout the summer of 2022. See Calendar and Events section for a complete schedule.

Accomplishments in Training



Another class of participants have completed Solar Panel Training. (left to right) OCWB staff, Travis Woods, participants and Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Reggie Gordon



Workplace Excellence class from the Jewish Family Services partnership.

These ladies completed their Personal Companion Aide (PCA) certification and received Workplace Excellence Training from the Boys & Girls Club in Creighton Court.

From Computer Programmer to Social Worker: Meet Kenechukwu "Kene" Menakaya



Kenechukwu "Kene" Menakaya relocated to Maryland from Lagos, Nigeria, in 2009 to work for a software company as a Computer Programmer. However, when Mr. Menakaya arrived, he discovered that the company had closed. As a result, he suddenly became unemployed and worked several part-time, lower-paying jobs to make ends meet: Certified Nursing Aide (CNA) and Ice-cream Shop Associate. Finally, however, Mr. Menakaya aspired to do more in his career.

In 2016, Mr. Menakaya came to OCWB's workforce program to receive commercial driving and phlebotomy training. In addition, he attended soft skills workshops and created an individual career plan with his Career Advisor. Shortly after completing his training, he secured a job as a Mobile Bus Driver for the American Red Cross, where he drew blood for residents in the community. After gaining experience in the healthcare industry, he decided to go to the school to become a Social Worker.

Mr. Menakaya graduated from Walden University on November 14, 2021, with his Masters in Social Work from Walden University and a concentration in Advanced Clinical Studies. He hopes to be a Social Worker for the Veteran's hospital one day. Mr. Menakaya also reported that he is a newlywed!

"Everybody should strive very hard to get to the top and go wherever you want to go," says Kenechukwu "Kene" Menakaya.

Ian Young is the 2022 Honoree for the Next Move Program



Former OCWB Workforce Participant and staff member, Ian Young was selected to be one of four 2022 Model Honorees for the Next Move Program.

The Next Move Program is a 501 (c)(3) organization that partners with businesses to create guided internship experiences for young adults with disabilities. The organization has a 70% unemployment rate for young adults with diverse needs in the Commonwealth.

Ian is an active member of the Autism Society of Central Virginia, Young Nonprofit Professional Network RVA, Free Horse Arts, Befriend, and Office of Community Wealth Building. He looks forward to a future career in Information Technology.

Mollie Reinhart is Richmond's Compassion Leader in Richmond



May 2022 marks the one year anniversary of when Mayor Levar Stoney issued the proclamation that declared Richmond a city of compassion. This movement was led by Mollie Reinhart, Founder and Director of nonprofit organization, Befriend.

Befriend connects people across the city to meet one another and forge new relationships by uniting through compassion. Their mission is "to create friendships instead of divisions, so that every person can embrace empathy, foster understanding, and build one community for all."

Befriend has been a long-time referral partner of OCWB. In many cases, Mollie has teamed up with our staff to fulfill the immediate needs of our participants. This partnership has provided a spring board for a pilot initiative that will be launched with OCWB's Workforce Program.



Lenore Consulting Coaches Professional Brand and Authenticity



Quintrel and Lorayah Lenore of Lenore Coaching are one of our most valued partners. Since the pandemic, they have offered personal brand and professional coaching to the participants and youth in our workforce programs.

Lenore Consulting is a team of career development professionals with ten years' experience working in higher education. They have served on several campuses, including JMU, VCU, Cornell, and Shenandoah University. Lenore Consulting's background includes academic advising, diversity recruiting & programming, career coaching, counseling & case management, and employer development. Their approach is characterized by focusing on helping people connect their purpose within their careers.

For more information about their services, visit them: <https://www.lenorecoaching.com>





Pamela Newton Receives a Doctor of Strategic Leadership

Dr. Pamela Newton, Executive Assistant to OCWB's Director, received a Doctor of Strategic Leadership from Regent University on Friday, May 6, 2022. Dr. Newton's research is centered on Leadership Development and Succession Planning for Nonprofits.

Dr. Newton is an accomplished executive assistant offering ten years of experience supporting top-level executives. Originally from Washington, DC, she is a graduate of the DC Public School system. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies, Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Christian Education.

"Throughout my career, I have witnessed many nonprofits and organizations closing as their leadership transitioned or retired because there was no one left to fill the gap. I am excited about my future in consulting with organizations on how to overcome such challenges in the future. I also look forward to using my expertise within our department," offers Dr. Newton.



Lori Payne becomes an Adjunct Professor of Business

Management Analyst for the Integrated Support and Special Projects Unit (ISSP), Lori Payne has become an Adjunct Professor of Business for Southern New Hampshire University where she teaches Critical Business Skills.



"It has always been one of my dreams to teach. This is allowing me the opportunity to impact the next generation of business leaders and workforce professionals," says Ms. Payne.

She is committed to process improvement, values compliance, order and organization. These are the professional attributes Ms. Payne weaves throughout her instruction.

Ms. Payne leads policy development initiatives, coordinates grant management functions and performance management. She also oversees the Virtual Workforce Sessions Calendar and works on special projects.


Ms. Payne holds a Bachelors of Arts in English from Montclair State University, a Masters of Business Administration from Ellis College NYIT and a Masters in Online Teaching and Technology from Liberty University.

OCWB Virtual Workforce Session Calendar Weeks of May 9th and May 16th

WEEK OF MAY 9TH			
MONDAY 9	TUESDAY 10	WEDNESDAY 11	THURSDAY 12
Virtual Workforce Sessions Download the Microsoft Teams App to use on your phone Get tips on self care Conference # 804.536.9457 Conference ID: 240.642.5438 Video: https://bit.ly/25533ta	SPS Community Hub Learn about how this organization helps the community Conference # 804.536.9457 Conference ID: 154.771.2158 Video: https://bit.ly/254333u2 Recruitment Event: Waffle House Speak with recruiters about their current openings and how to apply! Conference # 804.536.9457 Conference ID: 220.457.2874 Video: https://bit.ly/2w633za	Urban Baby Beginnings Learn about how this organization helps the community Conference # 804.536.9457 Conference ID: 240.642.5438 Video: https://bit.ly/2w233ta ASK US ABOUT THE GIVING WALL 	Community Resources Get info on resources in the area Conference # 804.536.9457 Conference ID: 272.230.1024 Video: https://bit.ly/254333u2 Virtual Information Session Learn how to enroll in the OCWB Program! Conference # 804.536.9457 Conference ID: 580.755.5054 Video: https://bit.ly/27223ta
WEEK OF MAY 16TH			
MONDAY 16	TUESDAY 17	WEDNESDAY 18	THURSDAY 19
Virtual Workforce Sessions Download the Microsoft Teams App to use on your phone Get tips on self care Conference # 804.536.9457 Conference ID: 240.642.5438 Video: https://bit.ly/25533ta VISIT US ONLINE CLICK HERE	VA Child Support Division Learn about this program & how it helps the community Conference # 804.536.9457 Conference ID: 395.985.6698 Video: https://bit.ly/2w633za Recruitment Event: Uptown Homestyle Foods Speak with recruiters about their current openings and how to apply! Conference # 804.536.9457 Conference ID: 154.771.2158 Video: https://bit.ly/254333u2	Family and Community Building Series Get tips on relationship well being Conference # 804.536.9457 Conference ID: 405.072.7428 Video: https://bit.ly/254333u2 CALL US FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TRAINING AND OUR SERVICES 804.646.6464	LIKE US ON  OFFICE OF COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING Virtual Information Session Learn how to enroll in the OCWB Program! Conference # 804.536.9457 Conference ID: 580.755.5054 Video: https://bit.ly/27223ta

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)


Mobile Career Stations in the Community Weekly Schedule



The City of Richmond's Office of Community Wealth Building and Richmond Public Library brings career planning services and job training to your local neighborhood: resume and interview help, employment search, supportive services plus more!

Meet with a Barrier Navigator at the Richmond Public Library- Start Your Journey Today

Weekly Schedule



BROAD ROCK LIBRARY
4820 Old Warwick Rd
Richmond, VA 23224
WEDNESDAYS
2:00 - 4:30 PM

EAST END LIBRARY
1200 N 25th St
Richmond, VA 23223
WEDNESDAYS
2:00 - 4:00 PM

MAIN LIBRARY
101 E. Franklin Street
Richmond, VA 23219
WEDNESDAYS
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

NORTH AVENUE LIBRARY
2901 North Avenue
Richmond, VA 23222
TUESDAYS
1:30 - 4:30 PM
WEDNESDAYS
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

For more Information, call
804.646.6464

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)

About our Career Stations

OCWB Career Stations provide a supportive environment to prepare individuals for their next job or career. We collaborate with agencies, employers, organizations, and schools to offer job skills training and supportive services, creating self-sustaining career pathways for our participants.

Our Services

- Individualized career assessment
- Individualized action planning
- Career coaching and mentoring
- Job skills training
- Resume and interview help
- Supportive services (i.e. books, tools, supplies for training or employment)

Eligibility Criteria

The OCWB Career Stations are open to all individuals who are in need of employment services. Certain services may only be available based upon income, location and funding availability. Training stipends are available to serve individuals with children.

How Do I Get Started?

Complete our "OCWB Interest Form," using the following link or by scanning the QR code below: bit.ly/ocwbinterestform



After you complete this form, our Enrollment Manager will contact you to discuss the next steps.

Program Cost

There is no cost associated with enrolling in the workforce program at OCWB's Career Stations.



It was High Tea for the Ladies of OCWB!

(left to right) Darcel Jones, Caprichia Spellman, Saundra Laws, Pamela Newton, Quandra Holmes, Latoshia Edwards

The administrative staff joined Director, Caprichia Spellman, for the WomenRise High Tea. WomenRise 2022 is a United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg program that provides childcare scholarships to single mothers while they pursue a post-secondary degree or credential.

Ask Us about The Giving Wall

467 NEEDS...
\$98,858.50 in purchases.

In December 2018, OCWB co-launched the Giving Wall with Mindful Mornings. The Giving wall is a website where stories of people who have needs are posted and purchased by members in our community. Year-to-date, OCWB has fulfilled 467 needs for a total of \$98,858.50 through The Giving Wall.

Click the following link to support our participants: bit.ly/TGWOCWB

#thegivingwall

#compassioninaction

#wealthbuilder



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Website: www.rva.gov/community-wealth-building

CLICK HERE FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



CAREER STATION LOCATIONS

Career Station at East End

701 N. 25th Street, 2nd Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23223

Career Station at Marshall Street

900 Marshall Street, Ste 160
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Southside Community Center

6225 Old Warwick Road
Richmond, Virginia 23225

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL

804-646-6464