



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: JONATHAN ZUR 804-515-7950
JZUR@INCLUSIVEVA.ORG

VCIC Announces Recipients of 59th Annual Richmond Humanitarian Awards

2021 Richmond Humanitarian Awards presented virtually by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities on October 25, 2021

(Richmond, VA) - The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 Richmond Humanitarian Awards. This 59th presentation of the awards by VCIC's Richmond Chapter will be held virtually on Monday, October 25, 2021. The awards celebration honors individuals and organizations for making significant humanitarian contributions to the Richmond community.

The 2021 Richmond Distinguished Virginian Award Recipient

Anne B. Holton is a faculty member at George Mason University, and served as that institution's Interim President from 2019-2020. As a child, Anne helped desegregate Richmond Public Schools when her father was Virginia's governor in the early 1970's. She served on the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for the City of Richmond from 1998-2005. As Virginia's First Lady from 2006-2010, she championed Virginia's foster care system reform. From 2014-2016, Anne served as Virginia's Secretary of Education, working to increase Virginia's investment in public education, promoting innovation and the joy of teaching and learning in our schools, and ensuring that every student has a successful pathway to the future, especially those in high-poverty communities. Her life's work has focused on children and families at the margins, and the crucial role that education can play in helping young people move out of poverty. Anne currently serves on the Virginia Board of Education.

The 2021 Richmond Humanitarian Awards Recipients

Irving M. Blank is currently a partner at Blank & Marcus, LLC. Throughout his career, Irv has devoted his energy and resources to service to the legal community, the Jewish community, and the community at large. He has served as President of the Virginia State Bar and the Virginia Law Foundation, as well as on the Boards of many local, state, and national organizations including Jewish Family Services, the Jewish Community Federation of Richmond, Virginia Continuing Legal Education, Virginia Holocaust Museum, and the Virginia Israel Advisory Board. Irv has been appointed by 7 different Governors of Virginia to numerous Boards and Commissions. He has also been a frequent speaker and commentator on the Middle East and its contemporary history. Irv has been recognized by the legal profession in many areas from leadership to courtroom excellence, to education and mentoring.

Rudene Mercer Haynes is a partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Outside of her legal practice, Rudene is passionate about ending health disparities and racial inequities. In 2020, Rudene co-created "Facts & Faith Fridays," a series of calls with the Black faith community to provide accurate information on COVID-19. Dr. Anthony Fauci and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden have joined the discussions, and the White House cited the initiative as a model to be replicated across the country. Rudene is Secretary of the Board of Directors for the YWCA of Richmond; member of the Board of Trustees for the Children's Museum of Richmond; a member of the VCU Massey Cancer Center Advisory Board; and a member of SisterFund, Richmond's Black women giving circle managed by the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond.

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