

MODERATOR



H. Garrett Hart
Director
Chesterfield Economic Development
VEDA President

Garrett Hart is the Director for Chesterfield Economic Development and is in charge of a comprehensive local economic development program including business attraction, existing business, small business assistance, retail, talent attraction and tourism programs, all to strengthen the county's tax base, create jobs, and enhance quality of life. Garrett is also the Executive Director of the Economic Development Authority of Chesterfield County.

Chesterfield, Virginia is a thriving, affluent, suburban community located in the Richmond, Virginia metropolitan area. Chesterfield is recognized for its prime mid-Atlantic location and robust economy. Chesterfield has historically been a leader in industry and is home to many of the Commonwealth's largest industries such as DuPont, Honeywell International, Niagara and Philip Morris USA. With a population of more than 380,000; Chesterfield is the largest locality in Richmond, Virginia MSA and the fourth largest county in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Chesterfield County led the region in job growth over the past four years and recently ranked fourth for job growth of all counties in the U.S.A.

The Economic Development Authority of Chesterfield County is very active and has over 3000 acres under development. Their projects include the development of a 1700-acre mega site focusing primarily on the semiconductor sector. The project has received the largest amount of funding from the State's Business Ready sites program. Additionally, the Authority is owner and master developer of a 40-acre mixed use redevelopment project containing 1200 housing units, 300,000 square feet of office, 150,000 square feet of retail and the largest convention hotel outside of the downtown business district.

Garrett has enjoyed 40 years of assisting in job creation and increased capital investment in the Commonwealth of Virginia, highlighted with projects like Amazon, Capital One, Colonial Downs, LEGO, Plenty, Topsoe and Sabra Dipping Company. Garrett began his professional career as the first Town Manager of the Town of Louisa, then becoming the County Administrator of New Kent County, Marketing Manager for the Virginia Peninsula Economic Development Council and Corporate Vice President of McKinney and Company before coming to Chesterfield.

Garrett is a founding member, past board member and current President of the Virginia Economic Development Association (VEDA). He is a Past Chairman, Board Member, and Honorary Life Member of the Southern Economic Development Council (SEDC). He is a graduate of LEAD Virginia. Garrett received the Designation of Certified Economic and Community Developer, from the International Economic Development Council. He is the recipient of AIA Richmond 2025 Chapter Citation. He has been listed in the Virginia Business 500 Power List every year since its inception. Garrett is a graduate of VA Tech and has served as an instructor for both the Virginia Industrial Development Authorities Institute and Virginia Institute for Economic Development.

SPEAKERS

REMARKS FROM SECRETARIATS



**The Honorable Carrie H. Chenery
Secretary of Commerce and Trade
Commonwealth of Virginia**

Carrie H. Chenery is a native Virginian with two decades of experience in economic development, public policy, government relations, and strategic communications through both public service and private business. Her career spans identifying business growth opportunities for clients, leading a regional economic development organization, managing economic development policy for Virginia's largest private industries, and shepherding legislative and budgetary priorities through the Virginia General Assembly.

Prior to her appointment as Secretary of Commerce & Trade, Chenery founded and led Valley Pike Partners, helping companies grow across Virginia with modern strategies in public affairs, business development, and community engagement. Carrie previously served as the Executive Director of the Shenandoah Valley Partnership (SVP), the region's economic development and marketing organization. During her tenure, the region announced new and existing business projects representing over \$460 million in capital investment and 1,900 new jobs while unifying seven counties and five cities under a shared economic development vision, building coalitions among 160 private sector investors, and serving as the region's strategic voice to site consultants, partner agencies, and elected and appointed officials.

Prior to her leadership role at SVP, Carrie served the Virginia Office of the Governor as the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture & Forestry. She was responsible for the oversight and advancement of economic development efforts, including administration of the Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development (AFID) fund, related to Virginia's largest private industries of agriculture and forestry. During her tenure, the AFID fund contributed to the announcement of over \$46 million in new private capital investment and the creation of over 400 jobs.

Prior to her role in the Governor's Office, she gained wide-ranging economic development, marketing, government relations, and communication experience across diverse industry sectors as the Manager of Legislation & Policy at the Virginia Economic Development Partnership and as a Director of Government Affairs with the law firm Williams Mullen.

A graduate of Virginia Tech, Carrie earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Policy & Planning and Agricultural & Applied Economics. She is also a graduate of the Political Leaders Program through the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia. She previously served as a gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority Board of Directors and the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

Carrie has been named one of North America's Top 50 Economic Developers by Consultant Connect and as an Outstanding Alumni by the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

She and her husband, Taylor, are the proud parents of two daughters.



The Honorable Katie K. Frazier
Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
Commonwealth of Virginia

Katie K. Frazier was born and raised in Rockingham County where she grew up, joined FFA, and fell in love with agricultural advocacy. She is a Virginia Tech alum, where she studied Agricultural Economics and Political Science. Katie has worked tirelessly at both the state and federal levels on a wide range of issues, including soil and water conservation, market and economic development, agricultural research, workforce development, and the preservation of working farms and forests.

Prior to this role, Katie served as the Chief Brand Officer for Farm Credit of the Virginias. In this role, she led the financial cooperative's marketing, legislative and advocacy efforts, education, the Farm Credit Knowledge Center, stakeholder and community relations, and charitable contributions programs. Her previous experience includes serving as the Executive Director of the Virginia Agribusiness Council, a non-profit trade association in Richmond, as well as representation of wineries and grain producers in her advocacy work.

Katie is proud to serve in this role under Governor Spanberger and is looking forward to cross-cabinet collaboration over the next four years.

VEDP UPDATE



Jason El Koubi
President and CEO
Virginia Economic Development Partnership

Jason El Koubi oversees Virginia's strategic vision for economic development across the Commonwealth: creating opportunities for communities and companies alike to achieve long-term growth.

Jason serves as a senior advisor to companies making complex location and investment decisions. He works directly with corporate leaders and site selectors to navigate business growth opportunities and challenges, align stakeholders and prospective partners, and move projects forward with speed and certainty. Since becoming President and CEO, he has overseen more than 300 projects resulting in over 45,000 jobs and more than \$90 billion in capital investment, including major investments from AstraZeneca, Avio, AWS, Eli Lilly, LEGO, LS Cable & System Ltd, Merck, Micron, and Wells Fargo, among others.

Jason is an expert in driving transformational growth through business investment, workforce strategy, and strategic partnerships and brings a proven track record as an economic development dealmaker, shaped by leadership roles at both the state and regional levels, including serving as Assistant Secretary of Louisiana Economic Development and President and CEO of One Acadiana – a regional economic development organization.

His experiences span policy, strategy, and execution, enabling him to align government partners, businesses, and other stakeholders to deliver complex projects seamlessly. He combines those skills with a global perspective and credibility with international firms, as well as deep expertise in trade and logistics through his service on the Port of Virginia board. With board leadership spanning early childhood to higher education, Jason brings a long-term view and has placed talent development at the heart of Virginia's economic development strategy, ensuring Virginia aligns education with economic opportunity while effectively navigating complex demographic and technological trends. With a background in engineering, he has an analytical approach that allows him to engage in the technical and operational aspects of business expansion and help companies move from strategy to successful execution.