

Valaryee Mitchell Bio 2019

Valaryee Mitchell is the Director of the City of Richmond's Office of Community Wealth Building. The Office is charged with reducing poverty and building wealth in the City of Richmond. Mrs. Mitchell previously served as the Workforce Administrator and most recently Interim Director of the Department. Mitchell has over 18 years of progressive experience with workforce programs including those serving youth, adults, people living in poverty, dislocated workers, re-entry and business. She has worked on many initiatives throughout her career centered around workforce development and has a wealth of knowledge and experience with policy development, program creation and management. Her career spans state and local program leadership and coordination. In 2018 Mitchell was named one of Style Weekly's Top 40 Under 40.

In her previous role as Workforce Administrator she provided leadership and oversight for the City of Richmond's workforce development initiatives including the Career Stations, BLISS Program, Business Services, and Mayor's Youth Academy. Her focus included developing programming that provided needed support, skills, and motivation while connecting to the business community. Mitchell was able to assist in securing over \$10 million in grant funds for the Office. Her team mantra is "Raise the Bar" in all aspects of work because the participants and businesses deserve the best.

Prior to coming to the Office of Community Wealth Building Mitchell was the Statewide One-Stop Coordinator for the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). During her tenure with the VCCS she established a One-Stop Certification process that reviewed continuous quality improvement in 18 American Job Centers across Virginia. She also focused on integrating true partner collaboration into state and local programs. She believes that people benefit when programs work together. She has been sought after to facilitate collaboration trainings at various conferences.

Mitchell received her Bachelor's Degree from Hampton University in Political Science and her Masters of Public Administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. She cites her time at her "Home by the Sea" (Hampton University) as when she discovered her passion for helping others. In addition to working full time for the City of Richmond she volunteers her time at her church and facilitating conflict resolution training in the community. Mitchell is in her second term as a member of the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals Board of Directors (NAWDP) and is the E-Learning Committee Chair for NAWDP. She is a member of the Capital Region Workforce Development Board and a Certified Workforce Development Professional.

Having grown up in poverty she is passionate about the mission of the Office. Mitchell's goal is to transform communities by helping people succeed and reach their goals. She feels this is possible through structural and systemic change and building programs that build up people. She believes everyone should have an opportunity to thrive.