

Pamela Northam

From January 2018 to 2022 as First Lady of Virginia, Pamela Northam was happy to have been a part of the Northam administration which prioritized a thriving Chesapeake Bay and healthy water quality for everyone. Establishing the Environmental Education office was an early goal for a science educator, but she is also proud of their record funding for clean water programs, creating Virginia's first coastal master plan to address sea level rise, transferring Menhaden fish to VMRC oversight, passing the Living Shoreline Bill, joining The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and creating the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.

Mrs. Northam used her experience as a former pediatric therapist and educator to lead the Northam Administration's work to increase access to quality early childhood care and education. During those four years over \$340 million in new state, federal, and local funds were dedicated to Virginia's early education system, including \$42.9 million in innovative federal preschool development grants overseen by the First Lady's office. Funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative more than doubled and capacity grew to a record number of students, adding three-year-olds for the first time ever.

Mrs. Northam chaired both the Virginia Children's Cabinet and the Virginia STEM Education Commission.

She currently works as the Elizabeth River Project's Development Coordinator at the Ryan Resilience Lab, a global model of urban coastal resilience. She is honored to hold several board positions, including the Chesapeake Bay Commission, Minus 9 to 5 at Eastern Virginia Medical School (Macon and Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences at Old Dominion University), and Wetlands Watch.

Previously, she served as Community Outreach Coordinator for the environmental nonprofit Lynnhaven River NOW. Prior to joining LRN, Mrs. Northam taught high school biology. Then, recognizing a need for STEM in elementary education, she became a national award-winning science specialist and worked to develop an inquiry-based, hands-on curriculum for students in grades K through 5.

After studying at Baylor University and the University of Texas, the First Lady specialized in pediatric occupational therapy, where her work included rehabilitation hospitals, teaching hospitals, and special education.