VDOE State Operated Programs

SOP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

CULTIVATING STRENGTHS, INSPIRING SUCCESS

October 14–16, 2026
Annual Leadership Summit
Hilton Garden Inn
Williamsburg,VA

Conference Focus: Empowering leaders, aligning vision and mission, elevating English language learner instruction, and fostering educator growth in state-operated programs through strength-based leadership

Day 1: Launch — Wed, Oct 14

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM
Welcome & Introductions
Introducing New SOP Support Specialist

9:15 AM – 12:00 PM
CliftonStrengths for SOP Leaders
Amanda Kellogg, Director of Professional Development, School of Professional & Continuing Education, James Madison University

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM • Lunch Break

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
Leadership That Opens Doors: Ensuring Meaningful Learning for ELLs (Part 1)
Mariely Correa Rodriguez, Coordinator of the Office of Multilingual Learners, Spotsylvania County Public Schools

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Making it Match: Mission & Vision = Collective Priorities
VDOE SOP Staff

3:00 PM–3:30 PM
Collegial Conversations (Part 1)
Challenging Situations & Team Problem Solving

5:00 PM • Group Unity Dinner

Day 2: Deep Dive — Thu, Oct 15

9:00 AM – 10:50 AM
Leadership That Opens Doors: Ensuring Meaningful Learning for ELLs (Part 2)
Mariely Correa Rodriguez

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Using Transfr in SOPs
Tiffanie Fykes, State Workforce Manager, Transfr

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM • Lunch Break

12:30 PM– 12:45 PM
Program Highlight : Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center's PERT Program
Rusty Eddins, PERT Director, Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center

12:45PM – 1:30 PM
Building Business Partnerships with SOPs
Ron Herr,TransitionTeacher, Blue Ridge JDC SOP

1:30 PM–2:00 PM
Collegial Conversations (Part 2)
Challenging Situations & Team Problem Solving

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
Unlikely Principals : What We Lived Through To Lead Through
Authors Adrian Day & John Day

Day 3: Forward Action — Fri, Oct 16

9:00 AM – 9:30AM
Building on Our Strengths
VDOE SOP Staff

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Strengths in Action: Leading SOP Teachers into Tomorrow
VDOE SOP Staff

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
A Conversation with HR: Supporting SOP Leaders
Maria Lewis, Chief Human Resources Officer, Charlottesville City Public Schools & **Chris Collier,** Director of Human Resources, Spotsylvania County Public Schools

11:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Closing Activity: Leader Strength Commitments
VDOE SOP Staff