

Biographical Summary

Kendall Elaine Tyree, PhD

Kendall Tyree has served as Executive Director of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts since December 2008. In this position, she serves as the representing voice of Virginia's 47 Soil & Water Conservation Districts. Her role as chief administrative officer is to provide and promote leadership in the conservation of natural resources through stewardship and education programs and to coordinate conservation efforts statewide to focus effectively on issues identified by local member districts. As VASWCD Executive Director, Tyree also provides assistance to individual districts and promotes and enhances the public image of SWCDs and the Association. Through her continued developing relationships with federal and state legislators as well as partner organizations including federal and state agencies and private businesses, the Association and SWCDs continue to grow and address conservation at the most grassroots local level.

Prior to her non-profit work with the VASWCD, Tyree spent three years as Special Policy Assistant to the Secretary of Education to both Governor Warner and Governor Kaine. As Special Policy Assistant she served as the legislative liaison between the educational agencies, the Governor's Office and the Secretary of Education. There she assisted on research and communication efforts, event planning, and served as key staff to the Governor's P-16 and Start Strong Council dedicated to improving college readiness and universal pre-k. Her work on organizing the Queen's Royal visit to the Capitol, the unveiling of the Civil Rights Memorial, and her efforts to raise educational attainment and serve students across the Commonwealth have given her a strong foundation in public policy. Tyree also served as a legislative assistant to then Delegate Preston Bryant during the 2005 General Assembly Session.

Tyree graduated with her PhD in Public Policy and Administration at Virginia Commonwealth University and her Masters in Public Policy from Virginia Tech. She completed her undergraduate work at Randolph-Macon College, a small liberal arts college in Ashland, Virginia, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with minors in Education, Religion and Spanish. She holds her postgraduate professional Virginia teaching license with endorsements to teach Spanish, History and Government at the secondary level. Tyree is also a graduate of Henrico County's Foreign Language Immersion Center.