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BUILDERS  
AWARDS**

**HIGHLIGHTING INDIVIDUALS  
MAKING AN IMPACT IN THE HAMPTON ROADS REGION**



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## *Dear Friend of Community Action:*

Thank you for supporting the 2023 Community Builders Awards (CBA) Program. While this event provides a forum to highlight our vital programs and services, it also shines a light on others making a positive impact on the Hampton Roads region. Those being honored at this event exemplify the spirit of community action.

Our exceptional 2023 CBA honorees were acknowledged for their commitment to service. Their work has transformed lives and communities. HRCAP honored these exceptional individuals because of their alignment to the mission of improving lives by providing optimum services and mobilizing resources that strengthen our communities.

Every sponsor is appreciated for supporting our vision to foster self-sufficiency through educational, social, and economic development. Their continued contributions during the pandemic helped HRCAP meet existing and emerging needs.

The Planning Committee, led by Mark Johnson, VP Truist Bank, did an outstanding job creating a special and memorable event.

We are very grateful to the HRCAP Board of Directors, HRCAP staff, volunteers and all who join us in maximizing opportunities for all citizens. Our keynote speaker, Blair Underwood, an award-winning actor, honored us with inspiring comments. Rick Elliott and the Norfolk Strolling Strings provided wonderful entertainment for guests. All the many contributions of time, talent and treasure led to an unforgettable evening.

With warmest regard,



*Edith White*  
EDITH WHITE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
HRCAP



*Van Noland*  
VAN NOLAND  
BOARD CHAIR

# CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS



PHILLIP D. JONES  
MAYOR

June 8, 2023



*A Message from the Mayor:*

On behalf of myself, City Council, and the citizens of the City of Newport News, I extend my deepest appreciation to HRCAP (Hampton Roads Community Action Program).

Throughout its over 56 year history, HRCAP, formerly the Office of Human Affairs (OHA), has served tens of thousands of residents through programs such as Head Start, Project Discovery, First Time Homebuyers' Education, Resource Mothers, Job Readiness Training Programs, Emergency Fuel and Rent Assistance, and Free Tax Assistance. In these challenging economic and pandemic times, many more men, women and children need the services provided by HRCAP.

Congratulations to the 2023 Community Builders Awardees! Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation for your outstanding contributions and commitment in making a difference in so many lives. Your involvement and dedication to help others is vital to our community and communities throughout Hampton Roads.

Again, I extend warm greetings from the City of Newport News and thank you for all you do to serve others.

Very truly yours,

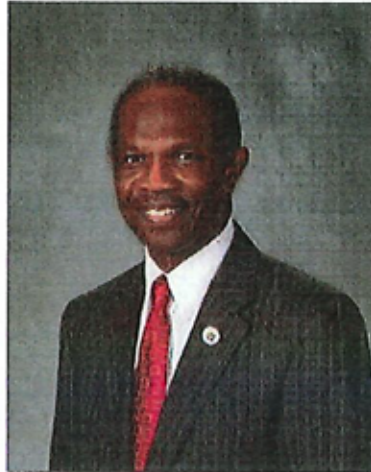
Phillip D. Jones  
Mayor

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## **CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HAMPTON, VIRGINIA**

On behalf of my colleagues on City Council, I extend our warmest congratulations to the Hampton Roads Community Action Program (HRCAP) on the occasion of your Annual Community Builders Awards Dinner on June 8, 2023. I would also like to extend our congratulations to the 2023 Community Builders Award recipients on this outstanding accomplishment.

Thank you for the services and programs you provide that help improve lives and strengthen our communities. We are grateful to have an organization in our community which is committed to serving each resident in Southeastern Virginia through promoting self-sufficiency and prosperity. Your dedication to helping others help themselves is vital to our community and much appreciated.

Again, congratulations and best wishes for an enjoyable awards dinner and for continued success in the future.

Respectfully,

Donnie R. Tuck  
Mayor

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# 2023 KEYNOTE SPEAKER



## **BLAIR UNDERWOOD** **ACTOR, PRODUCER, AND DIRECTOR**

A true multi-hyphenate, Blair Underwood is enjoying success in film, television and theatre, as an actor, director and producer.

Underwood recently wrapped production on two films, the Oz Perkins directed thriller "Longlegs" and Ava DuVernay's Netflix film "Caste," an adaptation of Isabel Wilkerson's best-selling book "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent."

He will also co-star in two upcoming series --- the Starz drama "Three Women," based on the best-selling novel and the Sky TV UK romantic comedy "Smothered."

He recently directed, produced & starred in the independent psychological thriller "Viral," currently in post-production. "Viral" centers on Andrew (Underwood), who falls into a state of paranoia after his wife goes missing. The only way out of the self-destructive cycle seems to be through his new girlfriend Emilia (Sarah Silverman), who has her own psychological trauma to deal with.

Underwood secured his first Tony Award nomination as Best Lead Actor in a Play, having starred in the 2020 revival of the Pulitzer Prize winning drama "A Soldier's Play" for director Kenny Leon and the Roundabout Theatre Company. The show received seven Tony nominations and won Best Revival of a Play. Underwood took his love for Broadway behind-the-scenes in 2021, serving as a producer of the new critically acclaimed show, "Pass Over," which was the first show to reopen Broadway after the Covid shutdown.

Recent Netflix credits include the Emmy-Award nominated limited series "Self Made: Inspired by the Life of Madam CJ Walker" (for which he won an NAACP Image Award), Ava DuVernay's Emmy-winning limited series "When They See Us," a recurring role on "Dear White People" and Clark Johnson's "Juanita," opposite Alfre Woodard. He also recently appeared as Vernon Jordan in Ryan Murphy's "Impeachment" for FX, HBO Max's "Love Life" and "Bad Hair" for Hulu.

Past television credits include series regular roles on the ABC drama series "Quantico," (which he filmed while also recurring on another hit ABC drama "Marvel's AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D."), "Dirty Sexy Money," "The New Adventures of Old Christine," "In Treatment," "The Event" and "L.A. Law." Film credits include "Deep Impact," "Set It Off," "Rules of Engagement," "Just Cause," "Madea's Family Reunion" and Steven Soderbergh's "Full Frontal." Underwood co-starred opposite Cicely Tyson in the Lifetime telefilm & theatre production of "A Trip to Bountiful," based on the Tony Award-winning play.

In 2012 he made his acclaimed Broadway debut in the iconic role of Stanley in Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire," for which he earned a 2012 Drama League Distinguished Performance Award nomination. He also starred in "Paradise Blue" at the Williamstown Theatre Festival and "Othello" at the Old Globe Theatre.

He has also executive produced and narrated two critically-acclaimed documentary features, Peabody Award winning "Mr. SOUL!" and "Olympic Pride, American Prejudice."

In 2010 he made his feature film directing debut with "The Bridge to Nowhere." He has also directed the 360 degree virtual reality Megadeath concert video (for which he won a Clio Award), the short film "The Second Coming," as well as several music videos and commercials.

Underwood is an Emmy Award winner (as producer of the philanthropy-centered Saturday morning series "Give," a two-time Golden Globe Award nominee, and has been nominated for 17 NAACP Image Awards (eight wins). He won a Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word as co-narrator of Al Gore's audiobook, An Inconvenient Truth. A member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, he is also active in several philanthropic endeavors.

# 2023 HONOREES



## **DR. VALERIE KAY BROWN** **EXECUTIVE PASTOR,** **THE MOUNT GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES**

Dr. Valerie Kay Brown is affectionately known by partners of "The Mount" as Elder Valerie. Now serving as the Executive Pastor, she was ordained an Elder of Administration and licensed to preach the gospel in 2002, and ordained as a Minister of the Gospel in 2009.

Elder Valerie brings a wealth of academic and practical knowledge to the position in which she holds. Elder Valerie's financial and administrative education and professional training are an asset to Mount Lebanon and the body of Christ at large. Her academic preparation includes a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Virginia State University and a Doctorate in Management degree from The Weatherhead School of Management, Case Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Elder Valerie K. Brown is committed in her mandate to stand beside her husband and assist him in all that God has planned for him in his ministerial journey. As a co-laborer in the gospel, she is gifted with the ability to teach God's word with a simple, practical approach illustrated with every day life experiences which are easily understood by all.

Elder Valerie has authored three books—her most recent being "You Can't Do What?:The Real Meaning of Your Salvation."

She is the proud mother of two children, Pastor James "LJay" Brown and Dr. Kimberly Williams; daughter-in-law, Dr. Keshia Brown; son-in-law, Linwood Williams, Jr.; two grandsons, James Emmanuel and Jaxon Emory; and one granddaughter, Kennedy Nicole.



## **DR. ETHLYN MCQUEEN-GIBSON** **DNP, MSN, RN-BC** **HEALTHCARE CONSULTANT & RESEARCHER,** **GIBSON & GIBSON HEALTH CONSULTANTS, LLP**

Dr. McQueen-Gibson has practiced nursing for more than 40 years, and currently serves as the Inaugural Research Scholar at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Va., as part of a multidisciplinary team conducting community-engaged research focusing on health disparities and COVID-19. In February 2022, she was recognized by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities with the Humanitarian of the Year Award for her work in the community during the pandemic.

In addition, from August 2019 until January 2023, she served as an associate professor at Hampton University's School of Nursing and Inaugural Director for the Center for Gerontology Excellence and Minority Aging. Dr. McQueen-Gibson holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from Ursuline College Breen School of Nursing in Cleveland, Ohio, a Master of Science in Nursing from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, GA, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ursuline College Breen School of Nursing. She also holds the distinction as a Fellow in Applied Gerontology conferred by the Southern Gerontological Society.

Dr. McQueen-Gibson is a veteran, having served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps on active and reserve duty. She is also an active member in several professional, civic, and community-based organizations—including the American Nurses Association, National Black Nurses Association, NAACP, National Urban League, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and Links Incorporated.

# 2023 HONOREES



## **GREG GARRETT** **CEO & OWNER** **GARRETT REALTY PARTNERS**

Greg Garrett is a licensed Real Estate Broker in Virginia and North Carolina. He launched his career in the real estate business at the age of 19 — starting his own company in 1984. Early in his real estate career, Garrett became the #1 agent on the Virginia Peninsula. In 2005, he became the #1 agent throughout all of Hampton Roads and was recognized by REALTOR® Magazine for leading one of the Top 50 Real Estate Teams in the United States.

Garrett is the recipient of numerous Outstanding Salesmanship Awards from the Virginia Peninsula Association of REALTORS® and has remained the #1 overall agent in Hampton Roads and the Virginia Peninsula. In addition, he was one of four brokers selected out of 6,000 nationwide to participate in a 16-city speaking tour across America called, "Recruiting Centerstage".

Throughout his career, Garrett has been recognized in Realtor Magazine as one of the Top 50 Realtors® in the United States. He was the 2005 Recipient of The Good Neighbor Award, which recognizes Realtors who have made an extraordinary impact on their community, or on the national or world stage, through volunteer work. More recently, he was recognized by Volunteer Hampton Roads as the Lenora Matthews Lifetime Achievement Honoree.

Garrett is the former President of the Virginia Peninsula Homebuilders Association. He holds a Certified Residential Specialist designation (CRS) and is a Graduate of the Realtors Institute (GRI).



## **JAY LANG** **STATION MANAGER & GM OF SMOOTH, 88.1 WHOV;** **PRESIDENT & OWNER, BLUE PYRAMID PRODUCTIONS**

Jay Lang is the station manager at Hampton University's 88.1 WHOV radio. He is the author of motivational book "Wisdom From The Jazzman" and producer & CEO of the Church Street Jazz Series.

Lang hails from a broadcasting family, his father, Jimmy "The Gator" Lang was a Savannah radio legend for 45 years. Prior to coming to Hampton University's WHOV as general manager, he was a top-rated evening air personality at Washington, DC's Smooth Jazz 105.9 and program director & evening personality at WJCD Smooth Jazz 105.3 in Norfolk, Va. Lang began his career in 1974 in Savannah, Ga., and has worked in Richmond and Atlanta as well as the Hampton Roads area.

Jay is currently an internationally known voiceover talent with Studio Center Worldwide Audio. His voice is heard on Time Life Music's "Soul Of The 70's", "The Soul Train DVD Collection", and "Body & Soul," as well as "TV commercials, such as Popeye's Chicken, Hardee's, McDonalds, Comcast, MGM Grand Casino, and several others now airing worldwide throughout the United States, England, and countries in Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean.

Lang is the recipient of the 2021 Radio & Records Radio Legends Award, president and CEO of Blue Pyramid Productions LLC, founder & chairman of the HJ Lang Foundation, and serves on several boards including the Hampton Coliseum Advisory Committee, Visit Norfolk, National Association of Non-Profit Organizations & Executives, Hampton Roads Black Chamber of Commerce, and is a member of The 100 Black Men of Greater Washington, DC.

# 2023 HONOREES



## **JENNIFER SMITH** **PRESIDENT & CEO, J. SMITH ENTERPRISES**

Jennifer S. Smith is the President and CEO of J. Smith Enterprises. This second-generation family business that owns ten McDonald's restaurants and a general contracting business specializing in residential and commercial electrical services, including heating, refrigeration, cooling systems, millwork, and facility management. Her company employs over 700 people and serves thousands of customers each year.

Jennifer is passionate about serving the community and demonstrates her commitment by offering corporate sponsorships with several of local non-profit organizations. She holds directorships on the Peninsula Airport Commission, TowneBank's Peninsula Regional Board, and the Foundation Board of the Boys and Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula. She is the former Chairwoman of the Newport News Economic and Industrial Development Authority and in the past, board member of the Norfolk State University School of Business Advisory Board, the United Way of the Virginia Peninsula, and the Southeastern Virginia Health System.

Jennifer received an Economics degree from Wellesley College, and a Master of Business Administration from Harvard University. She is married with three children.

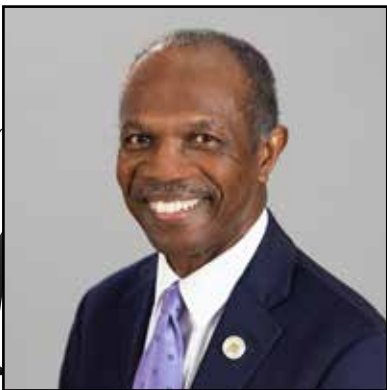


## **CHIEF STEVEN R. DREW** **CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS**

Chief Steven Drew has over 25 years of service in law enforcement experience. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Services from Urbana University in 1993 and a master's degree in business from Colorado State University in 2013.

Drew served 25 years in the Richmond Police Department and retired on July 1, 2018, as a Deputy Chief. He served as a Sergeant in the Narcotics Division and Lieutenant in Homeland Security. He was promoted to Captain and served as the Commander of the 2nd Police Precinct and later served as Captain in charge of the Major Crimes Division. He was promoted to Police Major in charge of Support Services and in 2015 was promoted to Deputy Chief and assigned to Patrol Services, which included all four precincts.

Drew joined the Newport News Police Department on July 2, 2018, as the Chief of Police for the City of Newport News.



## **THE HONORABLE DONNIE TUCK** **MAYOR FOR THE CITY OF HAMPTON**

Mayor Donnie R. Tuck has enjoyed distinguished careers in broadcasting, athletic public relations, technical writing, and local government. He holds a bachelor's degree in public policy studies from Duke University and a Master of Public Administration from Old Dominion University.

Tuck currently serves as Chair of both the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) and the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC); and previously served as Chair of the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance (HRMFFA). Tuck was elected to serve on the Hampton City Council on May 4, 2010, and re-elected to the Hampton City Council on May 6, 2014. On May 3, 2016, he was elected as Hampton Mayor and re-elected on May 19, 2020.

He is married to Robbie Tuck (Major, USAF Ret.) and has a daughter, Elizabeth.



# 2023 HONOREES

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## **ATIANA WILLIAMS** **MENCHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL**

Atiana Williams, an athlete scholar, attends Menchville High School with a GPA of 4.52. She is a 2022 Emerging Leader Institute member. One of her prominent roles has been mentoring to elementary and middle school female student-athletes — ensuring they understand their worth and capabilities.

Atiana finds pure joy and fulfillment in helping others. As varsity basketball team captain, she demonstrates a nurturing spirit and takes care of her teammates. Atiana led her team, the Lady Monarchs, to win the 2022 Virginia Class 5 State Girls' Basketball Championship.

As a member of the National Honor Society, Atiana is destined to be a world changer.



## **MAKAYLA WILSON** **WESTERN BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL**

Makayla Wilson, a member of the National Honor Society, is a senior at Western Branch High School— graduating with six college credits. She is a Certified Customer Service and Sales Specialist with NRF Foundation and a member of the RFK Cyber Security program. Makayla is an excellent communicator with an enthusiasm for learning and helping others.

She also serves as a Youth Mentor volunteer at The Mount Chesapeake. Makayla feeds people experiencing homeless weekly and has committed to 30 hours of volunteer time. Makayla is an exemplary emerging leader in our region.

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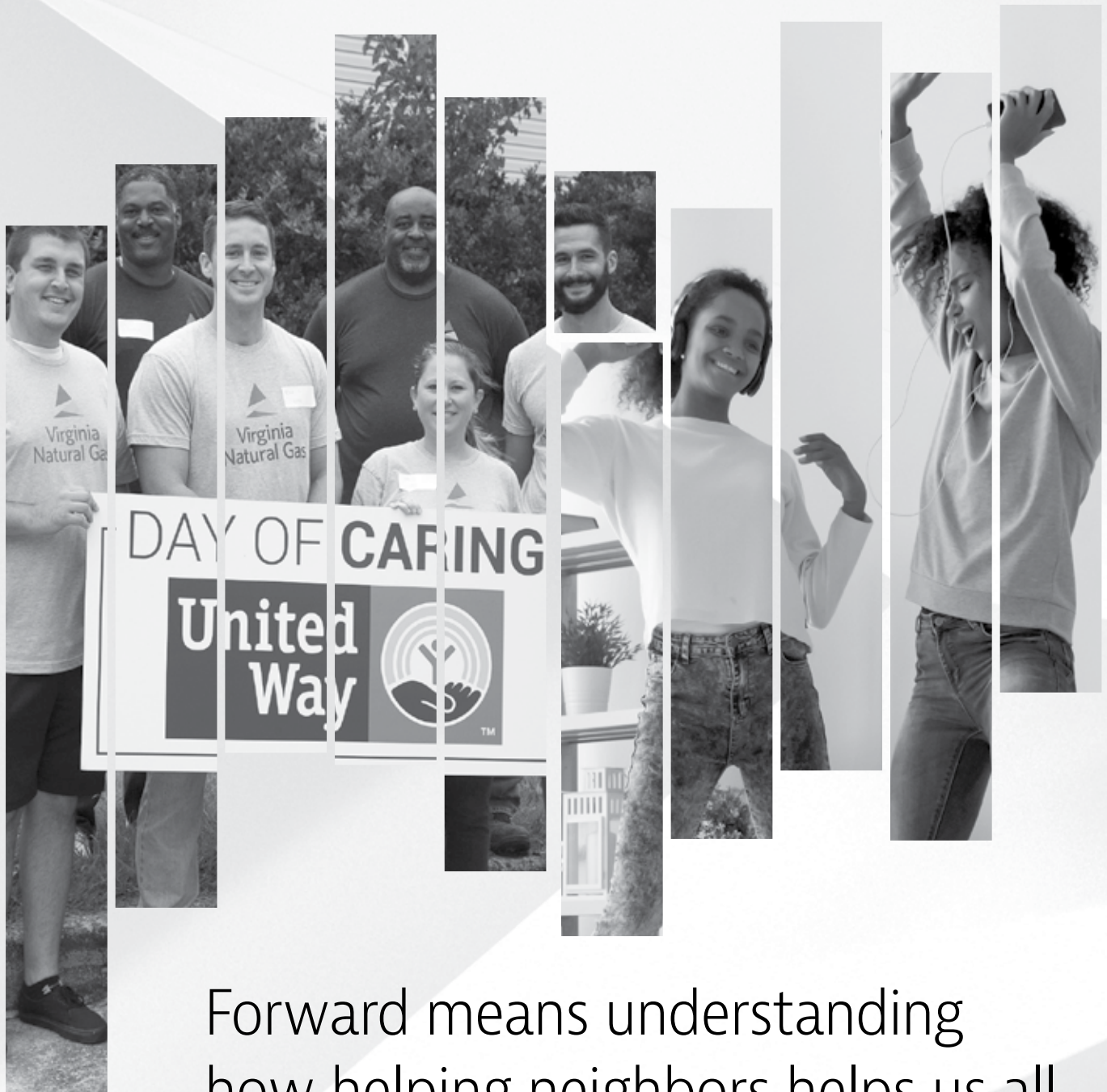


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## 2023 Community Builders Awards

# Chris Bowman

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# Hampton Roads Community Action Program

*We applaud the 2023  
Community Builder Honorees.*

We recognize the important work HRCAP and the Community Builder honorees do to serve the residents of southeastern Virginia.

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# We're honored to sponsor the Hampton Roads Community Action Program Community Builders Awards.

Caring for the community starts with providing support for the people who live in it. So we're proud to work with the Hampton Roads Community Action Program. Together, we can inspire and build better lives and communities.



[Truist.com](https://www.truist.com)

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# Sentara Cares

Our Mission is to Improve Health Every Day.

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## We are Proud to Partner with the Hampton Roads Community Action Program

Sentara would like to congratulate all the 2023 Community Builder Award winners. We believe our community thrives when we all come together to improve the health and well-being of our residents. We extend our thanks for your dedication to improving the lives of the citizens of Hampton Roads.

[SentaraCares.com](https://SentaraCares.com)



GACC • HPRLS • DBSI

★  
**JUL  
15**

★  
**Time:  
10AM - 4pm**



**2ND  
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Presents



**Michael "HipHopz" Harper**

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- We are a minority and veteran owned company
- 40% of top leadership are people of color
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- 30% of team members are women
- Multi-generational team members
- We give back to the communities we work and live in

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- Data engineering/analytics
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As an employee of ZelTech you will:

- Do amazing work
- Work on teams with people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives
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