

2023

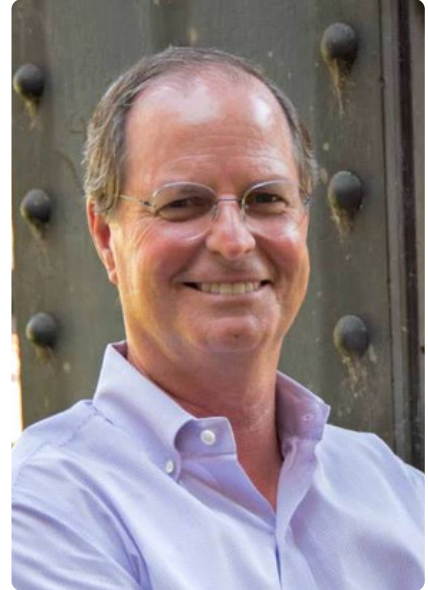
# CONVERGENCE

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## Theodore L. Chandler, Jr.

Co-Founder & Managing Director  
NRV

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Ted Chandler is co-founder and managing director of NRV, a Virginia-based venture capital firm that brings counsel, connections, and capital to high growth early-stage companies. He offers more than 40 years of C-suite experience, strategic leadership, and board service. Chandler co-chairs the RVA757 Connects board and serves on its executive committee. As a community leader, he serves on the boards of the VCU Massey Cancer Center, Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges, University of Richmond School of Law, and the Richmond Performing Arts Center.

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# CONVERGENCE

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## **Renee S. Haltom**

Regional Executive & Vice  
President, Research  
Communications  
Federal Reserve Bank of  
Richmond

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Renee Haltom is Richmond the regional executive and vice president of research communications at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. Her work involves engaging business, banking, and community leaders on national, regional, and local economic conditions to inform the monetary policymaking process, as well as sharing information about the Federal Reserve System. Haltom is based at the Richmond office and has responsibility for public outreach and engagement in Virginia, as well as to oversee the Richmond Fed's regional executive, research communications, and economic education functions and its Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council. She's currently serves on the board of RVA757 Connects and ChamberRVA.

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# CONVERGENCE

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## **Matt Anderson**

Executive Vice President  
Colliers International

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Matt Anderson is executive vice president of Colliers International. Anderson's role as a strategic advisor to the businesses he works with has evolved into a passion for regional prosperity. He has had the opportunity to be a part of some of the most exciting real estate transactions in the Richmond MSA that have created significant employment opportunities in the community. Since 2006, he has negotiated over 850 transactions valued at over \$1.5 billion involving government agencies, national corporations, REITs, national developers, and local businesses. In 2017, Anderson earned the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR) designation, which is a professional symbol of the highest level of knowledge, production, and ethics in the real estate industry. Anderson is currently on several boards including ChamberRVA, Colliers International Virginia, RVA757 Connects, and Wildlife Foundation of Virginia

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# CONVERGENCE

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## Jason El Koubi

President & CEO  
Virginia Economic Development  
Partnership

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Jason El Koubi was selected president and CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership in March 2022. El Koubi had served as VEDP executive vice president since 2017, helping to lead the development and implementation of an ambitious Strategic Plan for Economic Development of the Commonwealth, spearheading the development and initial implementation of the first-ever International Trade Strategic Plan for Virginia, leading the creation of VEDP's new Division of Real Estate Solutions, and serving on the management team for Amazon HQ2 and other major business development projects over the last several years.

Prior to joining VEDP in July 2017, El Koubi was previously president and CEO of One Acadiana, a regional economic development organization based in Lafayette, Louisiana. Before that, he served as assistant secretary of Louisiana Economic Development.

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# CONVERGENCE

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## Brian Anderson

President & CEO  
ChamberRVA

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In September 2019, Brian Anderson was appointed president and CEO of ChamberRVA, a regional chamber of commerce representing the greater Richmond, Virginia region. Prior to coming to Virginia, Anderson served as the president and CEO of the Greater Columbus GA Chamber of Commerce from 2015 - 2019. He began his chamber career at the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce in 2008 and served seven years in that capacity. He earned his Institute of Organizational Management certification from the US Chamber in 2012.

Before becoming a chamber of commerce professional, Brian served four years in the US Army as a Military Intelligence Officer, and eighteen years in the beverage industry with both Coca-Cola and Anheuser-Busch. He also served as the elected chairman of the Whitfield County, Georgia Board of Commissioners from 2005 - 2008.

Anderson is a native of South Carolina and a graduate of Francis Marion University with a BS in Economics. He lives in Richmond, Virginia, with his wife Heather. They have two adult children, Douglas and Sarah Whitney and a daughter-in-law, Abby.

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# CONVERGENCE

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## John W. Martin

President & CEO  
757 Connects  
President & CEO  
SIR

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John W. Martin is a futurist, award-winning author, and the president and CEO of RVA757 Connects. When Martin is not advancing the Richmond-Hampton Roads megaregion, he's leading SIR, a Richmond-based strategic consultancy. Founded in 1964, SIR has orchestrated over 16,000 strategic initiatives supporting corporations, government agencies, universities, nonprofits, and even entire communities. SIR's work centers on identifying and advancing unique brand positions, creating new products and services, formulating strategic plans, and assessing the overall effectiveness of business initiatives.

Martin earned an MBA from Virginia Commonwealth University and a B.A. in Economics and Studio Art from Washington & Lee University. He currently serves on the boards of RVA757 Connects, FeedMore, and Collegiate School.

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## Vinay Nagpal

President  
InterGlobix

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Vinay Nagpal is a data center and connectivity leader and visionary. He has 28 years of experience developing products and technology solutions. He is president of InterGlobix, a global consultancy and advisory firm focused on the convergence of data centers, terrestrial, and subsea fiber as part of the digital infrastructure industry. He is executive director and founding member of the Internet Ecosystem Innovation Committee (IEIC). Prior to founding InterGlobix, Nagpal was vice president of product management at Digital Realty/DuPont Fabros where he was responsible for product development, product management and lifecycle management of its hyperscale product, interconnection, and managed services.

He is the executive director and founding member of the Internet Ecosystem Innovation Committee (IEIC), chair of NUTC Data Center and Community, and the co-founder and member of the QTS Richmond NAP.

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## Jon Hjembo

Senior Research Manager  
TeleGeography

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Jonathan Hjembo is senior research manager for TeleGeography, a telecommunications market research company. He joined TeleGeography in 2009 and heads the company's data center research, tracking capacity development and pricing trends in key global markets. He also specializes in research on international transport and internet infrastructure development, with a particular focus on Eastern Europe. He maintains the dataset for TeleGeography's website, [internetexchangemap.com](http://internetexchangemap.com).



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## Glenn Ballard

President & CEO  
Dragonfli Group LLC

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Glenn Ballard is founder, president, and CEO of Dragonfli Group LLC, a cybersecurity business. Ballard empowers Global Fortune 100 clients, U.S. federal agencies, and state/local organizations with technology-driven solutions. His dynamic leadership steered Dragonfli to its Cybersecurity Company of the Year nomination and propelled the firm's dual Supplier of the Year recognition by Accenture and DisabilityIN. Beyond his professional endeavors, Ballard serves on the board of advisors for William & Mary's Washington Center, board of directors of RVA757 Connects, JDRF, and champions community interests.

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## Nancy Grden

President & CEO  
Hampton Roads Executive  
Roundtable

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Nancy Grden serves as president and CEO of the Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable (and held the same position at Reinvent Hampton Roads before that organization merged with the Hampton Roads Business Roundtable to form the Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable). Grden was previously executive director of the Hampton Roads Maritime Collaborative for Growth and Innovation, as well as associate vice president of Old Dominion University's Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. She was co-chair of ODU's Economic Development Task Force, a community-university initiative to identify talent and innovation pathways for the region. She also founded or co-founded several healthcare/biotech companies.

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## Carl Gupton

President  
Greenswell Growers

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Carl Gupton is president of Greenswell Growers, which began growing leafy greens in late 2021 in a new way by producing the greens at a large-scale indoor greenhouse in Goochland County. At Greenswell Growers' hydroponic operations, it takes about 21 to 28 days to grow leafy greens from seed to harvest, depending upon the type of product. Before becoming president of Greenwell Growers, Gupton worked in management positions focusing on the food industry for packaging companies Pohlig Packaging, 3C Packaging, and Commonwealth Packaging Corp. He holds an MBA from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Business and a BA in business and economics from Randolph-Macon College.

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## Benjamin Jarvela

Manager, Communications and  
Public Affairs  
Civica

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Benjamin Jarvela manages Communications and Public Affairs for Civica Rx, a nonprofit generic drug company created by U.S. health systems to manufacture quality essential medicines at sustainable prices. His efforts are focused primarily on Civica's new sterile injectable pharmaceutical manufacturing facility in Petersburg. This state-of-the-art facility as well as a new wet lab Civica is constructing in Chesterfield County will bring hundreds of jobs to Virginia.

Jarvela has spent his career in public relations and media, most recently serving as the communications director for the Virginia Department of Corrections. He also serves on the Crater Region Workforce Development Board of Directors.

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## Stuart Henderson

Director  
Jefferson Lab

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Stuart Henderson has served as the director of Jefferson Lab, a world-leader in nuclear physics research, since April 3, 2017. As laboratory director, Henderson provides the vision for the lab's operations and future. He sets laboratory policy and program direction; procures sufficient funding for optimal operation; oversees the successful delivery of its research programs; and ensures that Jefferson Lab complies with all regulations and laws and fulfills its contractual obligations. Jefferson Lab features the first large-scale superconducting accelerator that enables the research of more than 1,800 nuclear physicists worldwide.

He also serves as a Governor's Distinguished CEBAF Professor at Old Dominion University. He serves on the RVA757 Connects board.

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## Rony Thomas

President & CEO  
LifeNet Health

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Rony Thomas is president and CEO of Virginia Beach-based LifeNet Health, one of the world's largest life sciences not-for-profit organizations specializing in organ, tissue and cell procurement for transplantation and the utilization of tissue and cells for biomedical applications in a variety of surgical disciplines, research and drug discovery. In 2012, under Thomas' direction, LifeNet Health inaugurated the LifeNet Health Institute of Regenerative Medicine which serves as a research facility for developing allograft-based cellular therapy products, future biologics therapies and medical devices to speed and improve recovery rates and patient outcomes.

Thomas also serves on various boards including the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, Chrysler Museum of Art, Virginia Commonwealth University's College of Engineering Foundation, and RVA757 Connects.

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## Gregory J. Gilligan

Director, Communications  
RVA757 Connects

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Gregory J. Gilligan joined RVA757 Connects in March 2022 after working in a variety of roles at the Richmond Times-Dispatch for 35 years, including the last 11½ years as the newspaper's business editor. Much of his career at the newspaper was spent writing about the retail industry from 1993 until January 2008. He has been honored with awards over the years from the Virginia Press Association, including first place in the business writing category in 2021 and second place in 2022.

In addition to his job at The Times-Dispatch, Gilligan taught journalism classes at Virginia Commonwealth University from 2003 to 2008. He graduated from The Ohio State University in December 1986.

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# CONVERGENCE

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## Stephen C. Brich

Commissioner  
Virginia Department of  
Transportation

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Stephen C. Brich has been commissioner of the Virginia Department of Transportation since January 2018. Brich oversees the third largest highway agency in the country with more than an \$8 billion annual budget and a team of 7,700 people who are responsible for designing, building, maintaining and operating the state's nearly 58,000 miles of roadway, 21,000 structures and bridges, six tunnels and three ferry systems. Brich possesses 30 years of extensive experience specializing in the areas of traffic engineering, safety, operations, transportation planning and research.

Before his VDOT appointment, Brich served as a vice president with a major consultant's operation, focusing on transportation in Virginia. Brich previously served in several senior roles with VDOT.

Brich holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Old Dominion University and a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Virginia. He is a licensed professional engineer in Virginia and Maryland. Brich is from Hampton Roads.



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# CONVERGENCE

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## DJ Stadtler

Executive Director  
Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

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DJ Stadtler was appointed executive director of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority in April 2021 and is accountable for all strategy, policy development, and operations of the authority. Stadtler came to VPRA from Amtrak where he spent 12 years serving in three different executive vice president roles as chief financial officer, chief operating officer, and chief administrative officer. His 25 years of experience in the railroad industry also includes time at the Federal Railroad Administration where he served as deputy chief financial officer, overseeing budget, accounting, procurement, and real estate.

Stadtler is a two-time graduate of Northeastern University.

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## Jon Lugbill

Executive Director  
Sports Backers

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For the past 30 years, Jon Lugbill has been the executive director of Sports Backers, a nonprofit group that inspires everyone in the Richmond region to live an active lifestyle. The organization offers free fitness classes, hosts kids run clubs, advocates for safe and accessible walking and biking infrastructure and organizes events that celebrate Richmond's active lifestyle including Dominion Riverrock and the Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k.

In his off-time (and sometimes his on-time) you'll see Lugbill enjoying the perks of the James River Park Trails, paddling RVA's rapids, biking around town, and supporting his beloved UVA Wahoos. He's on the board of Richmond Region Tourism and has served on the boards of SwimRVA and Greater Richmond Fit4Kids. As an athlete, Lugbill won five individual world championship titles in whitewater canoe slalom and competed in the 1992 Olympic Games.

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## **Robert A. Crum Jr.**

Executive Director  
Hampton Roads Planning District  
Commission  
Hampton Roads Transportation  
Planning Organization



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Robert A. Crum Jr. began his tenure as executive director of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) and the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO) in July 2015. He has over 38 years of professional community planning experience. In his role with the HRPDC and HRTPO, he is responsible for coordinating cooperation among the region's 17 jurisdictions in areas such as regional consensus building; legislative affairs; and transportation, community, environmental, housing, economic and emergency management planning.

Prior to joining the HRPDC, Crum was the executive director of the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission (now called PlanRVA) and Transportation Planning Organization. Prior to his seven years there, Crum worked for 20 years at the Centre Region Council of Governments in State College, Pennsylvania, most recently as the agency's planning director. Prior to his work in State College, he was chief of the Planning Division for Indiana County, Pennsylvania. Crum holds a bachelor's degree from Mansfield University of Pennsylvania in geography and regional planning.

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# CONVERGENCE

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## Bryan Stephens

President & CEO  
Hampton Roads Chamber

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Mr. Stephens has extensive leadership and business experience. Prior to assuming his current position, he served as President and CEO of Kalmar in San Antonio, Texas: a \$250M-year manufacturer of material handling equipment, after serving a distinguished 28 year career in the U.S. Army, retiring a Colonel.

In the Army he served in a variety of progressive operational leadership and command positions. His last assignments include Infantry Brigade Commander and Division Chief of Staff, 10th Mountain Division (LI) Fort Drum, NY and Chief of Operations and Chief of Staff, Joint Warfighting Center, USJFCOM in Suffolk, VA. His military qualifications include, among others, Ranger, Airborne, Pathfinder, Air Assault and Joint Staff Officer.

Since taking the helm of the Hampton Roads Chamber, Mr. Stephens has lead the Chamber to a U.S. Chamber of Commerce “5 Star Accreditation”, an achievement only obtained by the top 1 percent of the over 7,200 Chamber’s in the Nation. In 2016 he was awarded the Chamber Executive of the Year for the Commonwealth of Virginia by the Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives and in 2017 and 2018 he was #15 on Inside Business’s Top 25 Most Powerful People in Hampton Roads. In 2019, 2020, and 2021, Mr. Stephens was recognized on the Inside Businesses Top 25 list while also being on the Virginia 500 Power list for economic development.

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# CONVERGENCE

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## Grant Neely

Managing Partner  
SIR

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Grant Neely is managing partner of SIR, the 60-year-old national management consulting firm based in Richmond. Neely helps executives – CEOs, governors, mayors, university presidents, and nonprofit leaders – chart a strategic direction, tell clear and compelling stories, and assess performance. He previously served as cabinet-level chief communications officer for the Commonwealth of Virginia, reporting to the governor. He was director of strategic communications at Dominion Energy, head of executive communications at Pfizer in New York City, and chief of staff for the mayor of Richmond.

He is a board member of the Reynolds Community College Foundation and of CARITAS, which helps Richmond's most vulnerable neighbors break the cycles of addiction and homelessness. He has taught at the City University of New York and at Virginia Union University.

He earned a master's degree in Comparative Religion from Miami University of Ohio and a bachelor's degree from the College of William & Mary.

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# CONVERGENCE

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## Ried Watkins

Senior Advisor  
SIR

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As Senior Advisor of Strategic Planning/Trends and Tech at SIR, Ried Watkins is a veritable Swiss Army knife and works on a wide range of SIR's products and services. From business development, generating detailed proposals and project budgets, to conducting research, developing plans, and facilitating everything in-between, Watkins' can-do attitude and problem-solving abilities are instrumental in keeping SIR moving. Watkins joined SIR six years ago. An unashamed 90's kid, Watkins grew up immersed in technology and the early internet. His understanding of the digital landscape often finds a way to help SIR and clients come up with creative solutions to uncommon problems.