

CHRISTINE KENNEDY, IOM, CPC, ELI-MP

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Christine Kennedy's leadership journey started over 15 years ago when she was hired at the Lynchburg Regional Chamber (now the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance) to oversee their Leadership Lynchburg program.

Leadership Lynchburg is now considered a flagship program for emerging and high potential leaders and provides skill building, community engagement, and team projects. In 2012, the program celebrated its 40th class and launched a youth program called the Young Entrepreneur's Academy, the first of its kind in Virginia. In 2015, Leadership Lynchburg launched a program for senior executives called the Executive Forum.

During her tenure at the Alliance, Kennedy has launched several new initiatives including the Business at Breakfast program, the Biz Forward Task Force, the Work Healthy coalition, Women's Luncheon Series, and the Women of Worth event where the international ATHENA Award is presented. She also was instrumental in the chamber merging with the region's economic development entity in 2015, receiving 5-star national accreditation from the U.S. Chamber and several national awards of excellence from the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. She is the recipient of the Preceptor Award for innovative and impactful leadership from the Community Leadership Association, now known as the Association of Leadership Programs.

She has her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Liberty University and she received her coaching credentials from the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching (iPEC). She is a gifted and inspirational facilitator and frequent presenter at local, state, and national conferences and retreats in the areas of leadership, life balance, strategic planning, and change management.

She serves on several boards including the U.S. Chamber Foundation's Southeast Board of Regents, the board of the Virginia Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, the local Workforce Development Board, and was appointed to the Governor's Workforce Council in 2010, serving a 3-year term for the state of Virginia.

Prior to coming on board with the chamber, she was a Financial Services Representative for First Citizens Bank with several offices in Central Virginia.

Aside from professional leadership responsibilities, she also finds time to serve in local and international ministry where she has served as youth leader, District Director of World Missions, and board member of local ministries.