

Cherry A. Evans

Inducted 2023



Cherry A. Evans is currently responsible for directing public relations, aerospace education, marketing, promoting economic development, aircraft licensing and legislative affairs for the Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV). Those programs include the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan designed to promote the Commonwealth's air transportation system, increase aviation awareness, and support growth in the aviation industry.

She is also responsible for strategic planning, budget development and business process evaluation. Her division administers a grant-in-aid program that provides financial assistance to local government agencies for public relations, marketing, and business plans. Similarly, she directs a program that assists air carrier airports with air service improvement initiatives.

As DOAV has become ISO 9001:2008 and IS-BAO certified, she serves on the Management Review Team, Customer Service, Committee, develops and implements the agency's Communications Plan as well as consistently updates and reviews the Quality Manual, Strategic Plan and Performance Measures.

Ms. Evans has been employed with the Department of Aviation since 1989 and served as the Department's sole information contact until 1994 when the Public Relations Division was created. She has experience in managing the agency's public information network, which includes the agency's web site, coordinating special events, desktop publishing and aircraft licensing.

As a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a concentration in Public Relations and Advertising, Ms. Evans began public relations consulting and served as a contractor with the Virginia Podiatric Medical Association, Technology Plus Corporation, Historic Richmond Foundation and Page & Associate Attorneys to name a few. She has been a full-time employee of the Commonwealth since 1985 and held positions with the Department of Planning and Budget, Virginia Commonwealth University as well as the Virginia State Lottery.

Ms. Evans is a 2006 graduate of Lead VIRGINIA, an executive leadership program dedicated to building social capital, and she has completed graduate coursework at Central Michigan University with a concentration in Public Administration. In 1995 she graduated from the Virginia Executive Institute, Commonwealth Management Institute and completed private pilot ground school at Dominion Aviation Services at Chesterfield County Airport. She has been a member of the Public Relations Society of America, Women's Transportation Seminar, Women in Aviation International and Virginia Government Communicators.

She recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Tuskegee Airmen Inc./Hampton University Aviation STEM Academy and in 2001, her paper "*Writing the Wrongs: Aviation Awareness and Public Relations*" was presented to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta by the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS). She was recognized by the U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration in 1997 for her contributions to aviation in Virginia and received the Crystal Award for Excellence for the Department of Aviation's video: "*Virginia Aviation-Cleared for Takeoff*". In 1992, she was presented with the Woman of the Year Award from the Richmond chapter of WTS and was recognized by Secretary of Transportation Vivian E. Watts for Volunteer Services in 1989.

Ms. Evans enjoys cooking, singing, reading, and spending time with family and friends.