

Secretary of Education Anne Holton to Deliver Commencement Address



Anne Holton, Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia, will be the keynote speaker at Christopher Newport University's 89th Commencement on Saturday, May 9, at 10 a.m. on the University's Great Lawn.

Holton has served as Virginia's Secretary of Education since January 2014. She is a former Judge and First Lady of Virginia and a life-long advocate for children and families. Holton is the wife of U.S. Senator Tim Kaine and daughter of Virginia Governor Linwood Holton.

Anne Holton attended public schools in Roanoke, Richmond and Fairfax County. With her family, she helped integrate the Richmond public schools in 1970. She graduated from Princeton University and attended Harvard where she earned her law degree.

Secretary Holton worked as a legal aid lawyer serving low-income families before becoming a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge in 1998. When her husband was elected Governor of Virginia in 2005, she resigned her post to take on the full-time duties of the First Lady. In 2008, Holton began working with the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education in order to establish the Great Expectations program, which helps youth in the foster-care system gain access to higher education. She served as the Program's Director until she was tapped by Governor McAuliffe to serve as Virginia's Secretary of Education.

CNU President Paul Tribble said, "At CNU we believe real success is a life well lived. We want our students to choose to lead and serve and live lives of meaning and purpose. That's what we call lives of significance and that's exactly the kind of life that Anne Holton has led. We are pleased and honored that she will speak at our graduation ceremony."