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## **Gains, Gaps, & Goals: The Status of Women and Girls in Fairfax County report**

### **THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:**

Toni Zollicoffer, Karla Bruce, and Michelle Gregory,  
Fairfax County Women and Girls Study Working Group (WGS)

Fairfax County CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination  
Against Women) Working Group

Fairfax County Commission for Women

Robin Wilson and Karol Escalante Herrera and One Fairfax

Chloe Kyung Lee and Jaelyn Lourdes Yap and Countywide Data Analytics

Carmen Sevilla and the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Adult and teen participants in the Community Conversations

Dr. Benjamin Schwartz and Dr. Adam Allston and Fairfax County Health Department

Katina Matthews and Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services

Opportunity Neighborhood: Soraya Borja and Second Story, Ivana Escobar and  
United Communities, and FACETS

Flor Phillips and Fairfax County Early Childhood Education

Dr. Michael Becketts, Alycia Blackwell and Kendra Lee and Fairfax County  
Department of Family Services

Derek Chapman, Virginia Commonwealth University

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

### **WOMEN AND GIRLS EVENT PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

Karla Bruce, Amy Carlini, Michelle Gregory, Lois Kirkpatrick,  
Kendra Lee, Stacy Ziebell, Toni Zollicoffer



March 2024

# **Gains, Gaps & Goals:**

## **The Status of Women & Girls in Fairfax County**

**Friday, March 22  
2–5 p.m.**

**Government Center Board Auditorium  
12000 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035**

*Presentation by  
University of Virginia*



# Gains, Gaps & Goals:

The Status of Women & Girls in Fairfax County



## PROGRAM

2 P.M.

### OPENING REMARKS

**Dalia Palchik**, *Providence District Supervisor*

**Kathy Smith**, *Sully District Supervisor*

2:20 P.M.

### GAINS, GAPS, & GOALS RESEARCH FINDINGS

**Joanna Schroeder and Stephanie Shipp**

*University of Virginia*

2:50 P.M.

### PANEL DISCUSSION

**Melanie Akwule**, *Minwo Co.*

**Hunter Gunn**, *Inova Cares for Women and Girls*

**Salima Hemani**, *SZH Consulting*

**Jaime Hirschfeld**, *FlexProfessionals*

**Monica Jackson**, *Jackson Childcare*

**Rida Karim**, *Fairfax County School Board*

3:20 P.M.

### AUDIENCE Q&A

Moderated by **Karla Bruce**, *One Fairfax*

3:50 P.M.

### CLOSING REMARKS

**Phylicia L. Woods**, *Chair, Commission for Women*

4 P.M.

### RECEPTION

Government Center Atrium

## PANELISTS



**Melanie Akwule**, founder & CEO of MINWO Inc., an economic development tech company that provides culturally informed business development support, uses her background in product management and data science to create tailored entrepreneurial experiences for the businesses within customers' ecosystems.



**Hunter Gunn**, senior director of Community Health at Inova Cares for Women and Children, is a social worker with over 25 years of experience working in child welfare, juvenile justice, forensics, mental health, special education, death and dying, maternal and child health, and chronic disease.



**Salima Hemani**, founder and CEO of SZH Consulting, provides customized, research-driven solutions to Fortune 500 companies, government agencies, and various private and non-profit organizations to enhance their organizational health.



**Jaime Hirschfeld**, director of Client Sales and Services at FlexProfessionals, is in charge of business development and oversees activities aimed at generating revenue.



**Monica Jackson** is an experienced advocate for women and girls in Fairfax County with a background in early childhood education; she has played a key role in supporting the development of educators, caregivers, and high school students.



**Rida Karim** is the student board member on the Fairfax County School Board, representing over 180,000 students. She has dedicated herself to uplifting student voices and creating positive change in their educational experiences.