



## Leanna Blevins

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Leanna Blevins, Ph.D., is the Assistant Vice President for Health Sciences and Technology Education at Virginia Tech. Located on the Roanoke campus, she oversees academic programs and leads the development of future programs as part of the partnership expansion between Virginia Tech and Carilion Health Systems. Her research interests include the accessibility and impact of telemedicine in rural populations.

Previously, Leanna served as Executive Director of New College Institute, a state-funded higher education center in Martinsville, Virginia. She was directly involved with the creation and development of New College Institute including the design and implementation of a vision for providing innovative postsecondary access to a rural region. Prior to her work at New College, Leanna worked as Assistant to the President at the University of Virginia and also worked in the offices of State Government Relations, University Relations, and Faculty Advancement. Previously, Leanna served as Director of Career Development at the University of Virginia's College at Wise and as a Student Consumer Advocate at Virginia Tech.

Leanna earned a B.A. from Virginia Tech and an M.Ed. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. Her dissertation research focused on students in rural Virginia and their access to and persistence in public colleges and universities. As a first generation college graduate herself, she is passionate about policy development and advocacy work toward enabling better educational attainment for underserved communities and populations. Leanna has served in various leadership capacities on state and national boards. Currently she has a gubernatorial appointment to be a representative for the Commonwealth on the Southern Regional Education Board and chairs the scholarship and awards committee of the Virginia Network for Women in Higher Education. Leanna is an alumnae of LEAD Virginia. Leanna is most proud of three major accomplishments who call her Mom.