



## Leanna Blevins

Assistant VP, Health Sciences and Technology Education  
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Leanna oversees academic programs and support services and leads the development of future programs for VT's Health Sciences and Technology campus. She co-directs the Integrated Health Sciences and Research program, an intensive experiential learning program focused on biomedical research. She oversees multi-campus partnerships with academic and student services. She is the site manager for the NIH-funded CTSA iTHRIV Scholars program for early career faculty in clinical and translational research at Virginia Tech and Carilion Clinic. Her research background focuses on rurality and higher education access and attainment, and rurality and health outcomes.

Previously, Leanna served as Executive Director of New College Institute, a state-funded higher education center in Martinsville, Virginia. For 15 years, 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. She was extensively involved at the conceptual stage and worked as a critical part of the team before leading the institution as the agency-head.

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. 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. In a brief stint outside of academia, Leanna was a vocational rehabilitation counselor for deaf and hard of hearing clients throughout Southwestern Virginia. Leanna earned a B.A. from Virginia Tech and both an M.Ed. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. She earned certification as a Trained Facilitator in Entering Mentoring at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

As a first-generation college graduate herself, Leanna is passionate about policy development and advocacy work toward enabling better educational attainment for underserved communities and historically marginalized populations. Leanna has served in various leadership capacities on state and national boards and currently serves on multiple university committees. She is currently the state chair for the ACE Virginia Women in Higher Education. Leanna is an alumna of the LEAD Virginia program where she is a board member. Leanna is most proud of three major accomplishments who call her Mom.