# Enabling the Water Resources Utility of the Future

Creating the Water Workforce of the Future

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

#### HRSD Speakers

- Paula A Hogg Director of Talent Management
- Dorissa Pitts-Paige HR Business Partner
- Mike Chapman Plant Manager
- Keegan Ankofski Interceptor Systems Chief Maintenance Management
- Anita Hardy Plant Operator







ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN WATER AGENCIE



American Water Works Association



# Webinar Logistics

- This webinar is being recorded
- Participants will be in listen-only mode
- To submit a question, use the Q&A function
- Presenters will monitor these questions and respond to as many as possible during the "Q&A" session at the end of the presentation.



• Webinar slides and recording information will be sent out to all participants following the webinar

# Welcome

Jim Horne, U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management

Enabling the Water Resources Utility of the Future Series: http://www.werf.org/a/b/Events/WebSeminars/WebSeminarSeriesArchive 5.aspx#1-21-16-UOTE



# **Opening Poll**

## Please indicate the sector that you work in:

- Utility
- State or Local Government
- Federal Government
- Consultant
- Academia
- Other



## Initiatives in Developing the Workforce of the Future





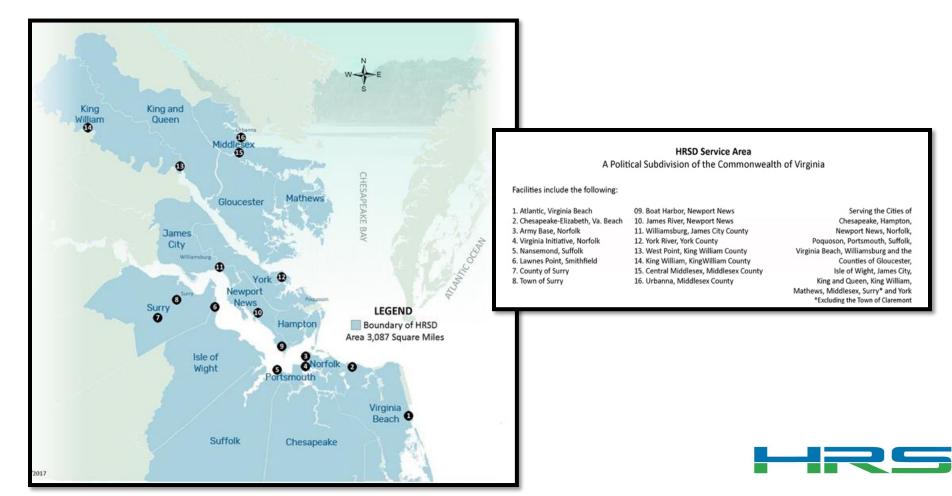
## **Topics & Speakers**

HRSDs Strategic Focus Area People Paula A Hogg Director of Talent Management	Engaging and Developing the Next Generation of Water Workers through Community Partnerships and Meaningful Internships Dorissa Pitts-Paige HR Business Partner
A Supervisory Perspective	Discussion with Former Hampton Roads Public Works Academy Interns
Mike Chapman Plant Manager	Keegan Ankofski, Chief Maintenance Management Anita Hardy, Plant Operator

**5D** 

#### **HRSD Service Area**

HRSD provides service to 18 cities and counties of southeast Virginia, an area of over 3,087 square miles with a population of 1.7 million.



#### **Fast Facts**



Political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia



Population Served: 1.7 million



Governing Body: Governor-appointed commission



More than 500 miles of pipe, 6-66 inches in diameter



More than 100 pump stations



Combined capacity of 249 million gallons per day



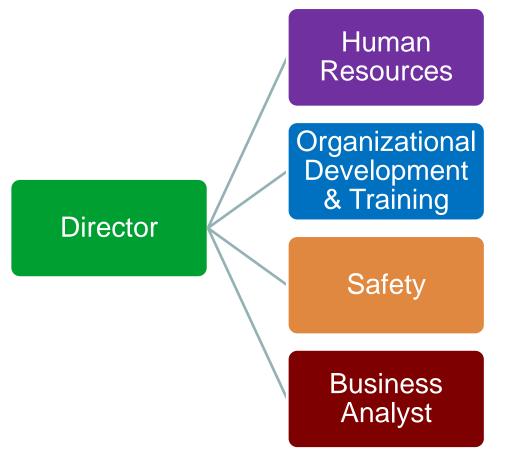
#### Organization





#### **Talent Management**

To attract, develop and retain talented employees with diverse backgrounds and to ensure employee safety





#### HRSD Strategic Focus Area - People

"We employ talented people who take pride in doing their best for the environment"

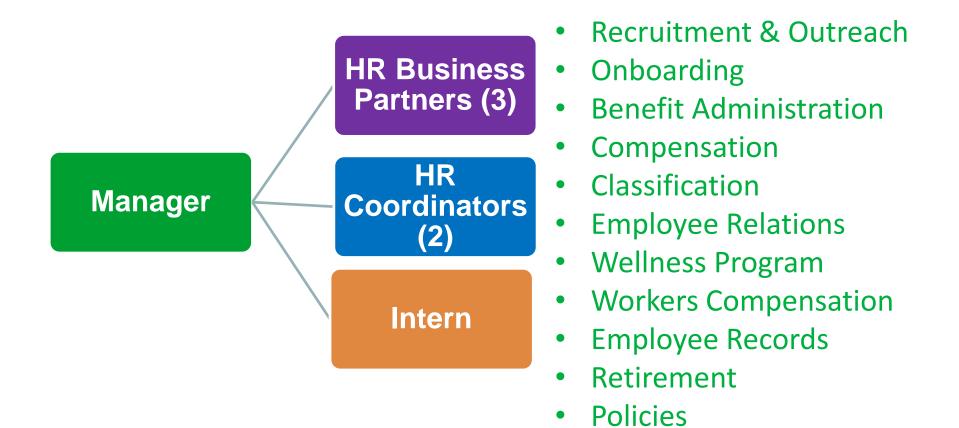
- Developing our existing talent with a focus on technical expertise, quality and collaboration
- Ensuring the talent we have is used effectively
- Increasing the pool of talent by inspiring the next generation to pursue environmental careers
- Attracting and retaining top talent with diverse backgrounds







#### Human Resources



HRSD

#### Human Resources

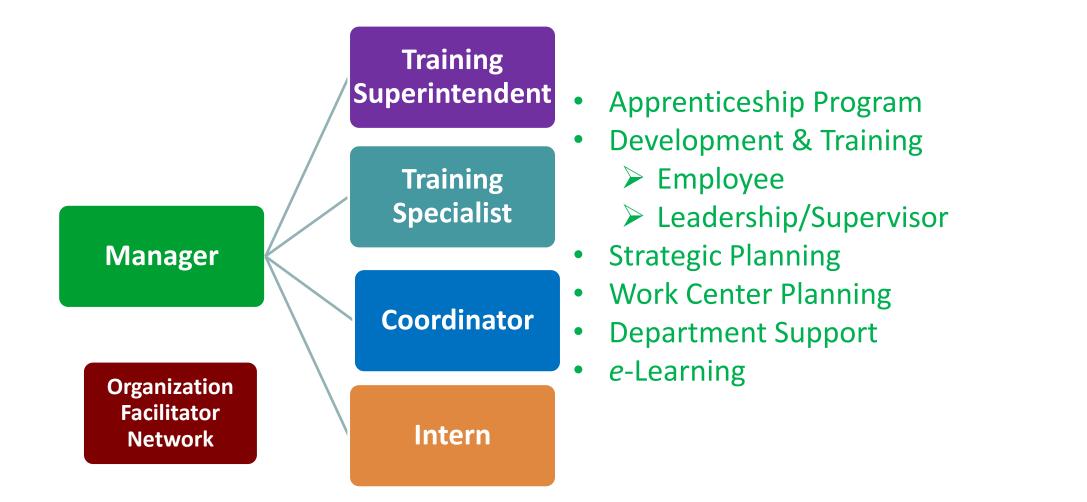
#### **HR Business Partners**

#### Work Centers Recruitment Employee Relations Supervisor Support FMLA/ADA HR Transactions Workers Compensation Retirement

#### **Programs** Benefits **Compensation & Classification Drug Testing Program** Employee Assistance Program **Community Partnerships &** Internships HR Training Onboarding Wellness Program



#### **Organizational Development & Training**





#### **Apprenticeship Program**

Developing our existing talent with a focus on technical expertise, quality and collaboration

- Since 1979
- Over 425 Graduates
- Tuition Free Apprenticeships
- 30% of Leaders are Apprenticeship Graduates
- 90% Retention

#### Mission

To create a workforce with diverse skill sets to prepare for an ever changing industry

#### Vision

To provide learning centered around work, life, health, water and innovation



#### **Apprenticeship Program**

- Three or Four Year Option
- Skills Based On the Job Training
- Academic Portion 576 Hours
  - HRSD Instructors
  - Shop Classrooms
  - On-Line
  - Distance Learning
  - Traditional Classroom
  - Intensive Courses
  - **OR Vocational School OR College**
- Textbooks & Mileage Reimbursement



#### **Registered Skilled Trades**

- Plant Operator
- Maintenance Operator
- Small Communities Systems
  Operator
- Interceptor Technician
- Electrical & Instrumentation
  Specialist\*
- Automotive Technician\*\*
- Carpenter\*\*
- Machinist \*\*











Engaging and Developing the Next Generation of Water Workers through Community Partnerships and Meaningful Internships

> Dorissa Pitts-Paige HR Business Partner

#### **Community Partnership**

Increasing the pool of talent by inspiring the next generation to pursue environmental careers





#### Hampton Roads Public Works Academy (HRPWA)

- Regional coalition promoting public works and public utility cooperative training in Southeastern Virginia
- Coordinates lower-cost training for current public works/utility employees
- Educates area high school students to develop pre-trained public works/utility employees
- Provides networking opportunities to member organizations



- Two-year, hands-on program geared toward high school students participating in Vocational and Technical Center Programs
- Selection process begins with an application, teacher recommendations, followed by interviews with HRPWA member organizations
- Cadets take 32 courses in major areas of work within Public Works and Utilities
- Complete a paid summer internship with a member organization



- Interviewed and selected by a panel consisting of member organization employees
- Interns experience all aspects of employment
  - ✓ On-line applications
  - ✓ Pre-employment screening
  - ✓ Onboarding
  - ✓ Safety Training
  - ✓ Hands on job training



#### **Cadet Courses**

- Custodial Services
- Customer Relations
- Disaster Preparedness
- Distracted Driving
- Emergency Management/ Preparedness
- Emergency Vehicle Technician
- Employability Skills
- Engineering/Surveying
- Flagger Certification
- GIS Use in Public Works
- Heavy Equipment
- Inspections
- Landscape Design
- Landscape Management
- Leadership Supervision Management
- Math Review
- Occupational Safety and Health
- Physical Plant Maintenance
- Land Surveyor

- Public Health Pest Control
- Recycling
- Security
- Solid Waste
- Stormwater Management
- Street Operations
- Structures and Building Systems
- Tools of the Trade
- Traffic Engineering Overview
- Traffic Safety
- Utility Locator
- Wastewater Collection
- Wastewater Treatment
- Water Distribution
- Water Quality
- Water Treatment
- Workforce Readiness



#### **HRPWA Intern Placement at HRSD**

- Automotive
- Facilities Support
- Treatment Plants
- Interceptor Systems
- Information Technology
- Safety
- Human Resources
- Pre-treatment & Pollution Prevention





- Not enough students applying to the Cadet Program
- Competition for top talent
- One year trades
- Poor attendance at Vo Tech/Cadet courses
- Unfavorable drug screen results
- Lack of reliable transportation
- Age
- Generational Differences
- Full engagement and support from supervisors
- Lack of work ethic



- Excavation
- Confined Space
- Preparing and Using Dangerous, Poisonous Chemicals
- Power-Driven Woodworking Machines
- Power-Driven Hoisting Apparatus
- Power-Driven Metal Forming Machines
- Strict limits on when a 17year-old may drive

- States the work declared hazardous will be incidental to the training
- Hazardous work will be intermittent and for short periods of time under direct, close supervision
- Safety instruction shall be given by the school and linked to on-the-job training
- Contains a schedule of organized and progress work processes

#### Overcoming the challenges

- Provide meaningful work in the intern's trade
- Recognize hard work
- On-site visits from student coordinators
- Ensure supervisors provide continuous feedback
- Conduct end of program intern and supervisor evaluations
- Measure and report success
- Allow interns to explore different careers







- Sustainable solution for recruitment and workforce development
- Focuses student career interests to your industry
- Ability to "test drive" new talent
- Creates a diverse pipeline for future employees
- Offers unique and fresh perspectives
- Provides short-term support to business operations
- Fosters leadership skills in current employees
- Develops mentoring capacity
- Builds community relationships



- Increase partnerships with local public school CTE Programs
- Cross training in other areas of HRSD (Engineering, Water Quality, & Finance)
- Get parents involved
- Actively recruit
- Help shape public school curriculum
- HRSD Pre-Apprenticeship Program
- Continued support from leadership



#### HRSD's HRPWA Internship Success

- Over 98% have successfully completed internships
- Eleven have returned for a second summer
- Six have been hired part-time
- Seventeen have been hired fulltime
- Nine have been promoted
- Five have utilized continuing education benefits
- # Hired into Apprenticeship Positions





#### **HRPWA Internship Success**

#### FT Positons Filled by HRPWA Interns

- Plant Operator Apprentice
- Maintenance Operator Apprentice
- Lab Assistant
- Engineering Assistant
- Customer Care Center Representative
- Maintenance Assistant
- Interceptor Assistant
- Interceptor Technician Apprentice
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Desktop Support Analyst
- Chief Maintenance Management





- 2018 Partner in Education award from the Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) Office of Community Engagement
- 2019 NACWA National Environmental Achievement in Workforce Development award



Investing in interns is a proactive way to address gaps in the water workforce and to leverage opportunities to ensure HRSD's future success, in alignment with our vision, "future generations will inherit clean waterways and be able to keep them clean."

#### Patrick Porto, HRSD Maintenance Operator, Atlantic Treatment Plant HRPWA Cadet 2016-Virginia Beach Career and Technical Center, HVAC

"Because of the internship, I have had many opportunities. I have a stable, well paying, lifetime career with benefits, promotional opportunity, retirement, and endless learning. I cannot thank HRSD and HRPWA enough for the opportunity of a lifetime that has truly changed my life."

WEFTEC Operations Challenge, Team HRSD (Patrick Porto pictured 2<sup>nd</sup> from the right)







## A Supervisory Perspective



Mike Chapman Treatment Plant Manager

Onboarding

### "A good first impression can work wonders"

#### JK Rowling









#### Meaningful Work

- No housekeeping jobs
- On the job learning
- Relate work to trade
- Leverage intern's strengths and talents
- Quality time with Supervisors







#### Employee Buy In & Engagement

- Briefings with work center staff
  - ✓ Schedules
  - ✓ Intern backgrounds
    - Trades and jobs
  - ✓ Assign Buddies
  - ✓ Lessons Learned
- Interns are included in all work center activities
  - ✓ Safety training
  - ✓ Meetings
  - ✓ Social events





#### **Overcoming Challenges**

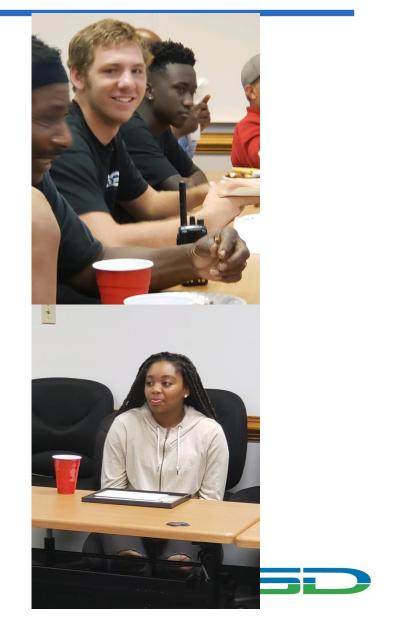
- Intern Age/Child Labor Laws
- Safety Concerns
- Intern Enthusiasm
- Generational Differences
- Time
- Lack of Job Experience
- Transportation





#### Supervisor's Tools for Success

- Engage Staff
  - Interns and Work Center Staff
- Build on Success
- Prepare and Plan
- Input from Staff
- Feedback
- Recognition
  - Feedback from Interns
  - Appreciation Event
  - Written Appreciation



#### Benefits to the Organization





#### **Meet Our Former Interns**



#### Anita Hardy

Army Base Plant Operator



Keegan Ankofski Chief Maintenance Management South Shore Interceptors Division



#### **Panel Discussion**

#### 2019 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

#### HRPWA INTERNS HIRED BY HRSD

"I recently celebrated my 10-year anniversary. It is definitely an accomplishment to be able to grow up and move up. It has truly been a blessing. Without this career, a lot would not be possible! I cannot thank HRSD enough for seeing so much in me that | did not or could not see in myself!"

at Pruden, PC Technology

Patrick Porto, HRSD Maintenance

Operator, Atlantic Treatment Plant

HRPWA Cadet 2016-Virginia Beach Career and Technical Center, HVAC

WEFTEC Operations Challenge,

arn HRSD (Patrick Porto pictured 2nd from the right)

Anita Hardy, HRSD Plant Operator, Army Base Treatment Plant HRPWA Cadet 2008-The College and Career Academy

HAMPTON ROADS **PUBLIC WORKS** ACADEMY PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP

There is no substitute for experience. Internships that provide hands-on learning give students the opportunity to explore the world of work, align interests and skills, determine fit, find mentors and make meaningful connections. Employers benefit because they can "test drive" new talent, develop mentoring capacity and build community relationships. Since 2007, HRSD has successfully partnered with Hampton Roads Public Works Academy (HRPWA) as a member organization to provide paid summer internships for high school students enrolled in HRPWA's Cadet Program.

Over the past eleven years, HRSD has provided 75 summer internships at various workcenters including Automotive, Facilities Support, Treatment Plants, Interceptor Systems, Information Technology, Safety and Human Resources (HR). Interns experience all aspects of employment including online applications, panel interviews, pre-employment screening, onboarding, safety and on-the-job training and supervisor evaluations.

Johnson AJ Brewer



Investing in interns is a proactive way to address gaps in the water workforce and to leverage opportunities to ensure HRSD's future success in alignment with our vision: "future generations will inherit clean waterways and be able to keep them clean."

nastasia Richardson



Ellison Smith, HRSD Human **Resources Intern** HRPWA Cadet & Scholarship Recipient 2018-Virginia Beach Career and Technical Center, Dental Assisting, Currently a Freshman at ODU majoring in Cyto Technology

"I completed an internship in HRSD's HR office which has absolutely made a difference in my life. It allowed me to connect with adults in a professional setting which is invaluable. I have grown as a person, not only figuring out my interests but also my strengths and weaknesses."



"Because of the internship, I have had many opportunities. I have a stable, well paying, lifetime career

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with benefits, promotional opportunity, retirement, and endless learning. I cannot thank HRSD and HRPWA enough for the opportunity of a lifetime that has truly changed my life."

Trent Fisher, Raekwon Batten, Patrick Porto, Joseph Williamson, Isaac Zamora-Smith, Anita Hardy Keegan Ankofski, Latasha Bell, Alek lensberger, Bruce Odom, Trevor Olton, Michael



## **Thank You and Questions**

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# **Question & Answer**

Please submit text questions using your webinar dashboard



# Closing Poll #1

On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the best score and 1 being the worst, how would you rate today's Webinar?

# Closing Poll #2

Finally, what other topics would you like to see covered in subsequent webinars?

Please type a brief response in the questions box.









American Water Works Association



# Thank you!

