

9629 Janet Rose
Court
Manassas, VA 20111

571-315-0720
atif.qarni@gmail.com

Atif Qarni

A visionary leader who centers student needs holistically—
with a belief that all students can succeed when their
economic, social, and cultural needs are met.

Leadership

Served as Virginia's Secretary of Education for four years and Associate Director for Hope Center at Temple University for one and a half years.

Areas of Expertise

- Leadership
- Resource Development
- Fiscal Management
- Project Management
- Progressive Learning
- Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
- Organizational Development
- Performance Improvement
- Strategic Planning
- Team Building
- Labor Relations
- Program Development

Education

Vanderbilt University August 2021 – July 2024
Doctorate of Education (Ed.D) in Leadership and Learning in Organizations.

George Mason University August 2006 – June 2008
Master of Arts in History

George Washington University August 1996 – December 2000
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology

Experience

Adjunct Professor – George Mason University Aug. 2022 – Dec. 2023
Politics of American Education course with Schar School of Public Policy and College of Education and Human Development.

Associate Director – The Hope Center, Temple U. Nov. 2021 – Jun. 2023
Executive oversight of strategic and operational objectives in communications and marketing, policy and advocacy, and development and advancement.

Secretary of Education – Commonwealth of Virginia Jan. 2018 – Nov. 2021
Oversaw 132 school divisions, 23 community colleges, 16 public four-year universities, and other state agencies.

Teacher – Prince William County Public Schools Aug. 2008 – Dec. 2017
Awarded Dale City Teacher of the Year in 2016.

Litigation Paralegal – McDermott Will and Emory Aug. 2000 – July. 2008
Oversaw litigation projects.

Sergeant – U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Jun. 1996 – Jun. 2004
Led 70 Marines including during deployment on active duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Key Education Accomplishments

- Designed Virginia's pioneer higher education comprehensive reopening guidance, which now serves as a template for other educational institutions. Streamlined the allocation of Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars across K-12 public schools, early childhood and childcare settings, and public and private institutions of higher education to facilitate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Spearheaded the creation of a Tuition free community college, one of the first in the nation to aid students of low income with food security and childcare.
- Attracted investment of over \$300M to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the largest in History. This improved pathways for students to become science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) educators.
- Drew the blueprint to make degrees in childhood education marketable in partnership with Virginia's community colleges and its four-year institutions. Championed the creation of early childhood policy in collaboration with the School Readiness Committee, attracting pioneer investment.
- Advocated for Historic state investment, which enlarged the pool of teachers and school counselors and reduced caseloads to 1:250 across all grade bands and increased instructional support for English Language Learners.
- Initiated the commissioning of the African American History Education, introduced a new course, and made recommendations on the program development to enhance diversity.
- Secured grants to provide professional development for teachers, curriculum, and resource assessment to improve career and work learning opportunities.
- Chaired expansion programs for the funding and scope of school innovation grants, putting students on clear paths to success beyond high school; improved salary for teachers and staff, the highest in 15 years.
- Managed an annual budget of over \$19B to achieve yearly goals for the entire almost 200 PK-20 educational institutions, museums, and the library of Virginia.
- Designed Tech talent fund to sponsor 31K new computer science graduates over a 10-year period.
- Built pathways to high-skilled and high-wage cloud computing careers, in collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS), select K-12 school divisions, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), and leading four-year universities.

Additional Experience

GED Night School Instructor: Established and maintained communication with school staff about the student needs and aspects of the after-school program. Supervised training utilizing technology for other GED teachers to improve the quality of GED instruction. Facilitated high school equivalency diploma acquisition among dozens of individuals including new immigrants.