



Sarah Jane Kirkland
President and CEO
CIVIC Leadership Institute

“Dedicated and passionate” are two words most often used to describe Sarah Jane Kirkland’s leadership approach. Sarah Jane has spent her career focused on exceeding expectations and helping develop a thriving, inter-connected community. As President and Chief Executive Officer of the region’s premier leadership organization, Sarah Jane is committed to encouraging its network of executive influencers to coalesce around important, regional initiatives. Workforce development, entrepreneurialism, economic sustainability, resiliency and sea level rise – all significant focus areas for CIVIC Leadership Institute.

Sarah Jane’s steadfast commitment to CIVIC’s mission has led to a rewarding career, first serving as the organization’s program manager in 2003, Director of Alumni Engagement in 2013, and later as Chief Operating Officer. She has seen first-hand how the organization engages and inspires leaders to affect real change. Prior to joining CIVIC, she gained critical insight into the tourism industry working with the world’s largest cruise line. Sarah Jane’s focus on the importance of a strong arts/culture community comes from her background with the Northern Ballet School (Manchester, England) and other professional dance academies. She also serves as a board member with the Governor’s School for the Arts.

Sarah Jane is a native of Leicestershire, England. It is with great pride that she now calls Hampton Roads home. Sarah Jane’s husband, Stephen Kirkland, is a CIVIC alumnus (Class of 2007). Though only in second grade, their daughter, Sophia, hopes to join the class of 2039...