

Dr. Kandis Boyd,
Director, Chesapeake Bay Program Office



Dr. Kandis Y. Boyd Wyatt is a trailblazer, an advocate and renowned expert in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math). She has nearly 30 years of experience leading, teaching, advising and mentoring students and early career enthusiasts in environmental and atmospheric science. She was the first African-American female to receive an undergraduate degree in Meteorology from Iowa State University in 1996. And in 2007, received her doctorate in public administration with a specific concentration in inter-organizational leadership and cultural values. Her most recent federal government experience includes serving as the Strategic Advisor for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR) in the Office of the Director (OD), the first Deputy Division Director (DDD) of the NSF Division of Grants and agreements, and serving as both the Acting Director and Deputy Director of the NOAA Weather Program Office.

Ann P. Swanson
Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission



Ann Swanson has served as a leader in the Bay restoration for 40 years, the last 35 as the Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative authority serving the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. It is the Commission's responsibility to sponsor legislation at the state level and to work with state legislators, members of the U.S. Congress, and the federal and state regulatory agencies to coordinate programs aimed at restoring the Chesapeake Bay. The Commission's 21-members hailing from three states (MD, VA and PA) work to translate science into policy that will advance environmental sustainability across the watershed – ranging from air, land, water and living resources.

Although Ann operates in a highly political environment, she is trained in the sciences. A trained wildlife biologist and forest ecologist, she graduated with honors from the University of Vermont and Yale University. She holds an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Vermont.

Ann has been recognized regionally, nationally and internationally for her work. She delivered a keynote address at the Stockholm Water Festival, chaired the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources for 11 years, and has been recognized with awards by her colleagues in the Bay watershed, the governors of the region and the General Assemblies of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Ann is a founder of the Chester River Association (now ShoreRivers), the BayFunders and the Chesapeake Conservancy. She currently serves on the Advisory Boards of the Maryland Sea Grant and the Galapagos Conservancy. Ann has been married for 38 years, is a published illustrator, an accomplished cook, gardener, mosaic artist, backpacker and sea kayaker, and is the proud mother of two boys.