

# Meron T. Yohannes, M.P.A

(b) (6)

**Skills:** Policy research and analysis. Survey research and design. Program evaluation. Data management and coding. Technical report and brief writing. Advocacy and public speaking. Leadership. Facilitating interviews and focus groups. Project management. Collaboration. Grant proposal writing. Mediation.

## Professional Experience

**The Bipartisan Policy Center** • Washington, D.C. 20005

**Policy Analyst for Housing and Infrastructure Project/Business and Technology Project**

June 2019 - Present

- Performing comprehensive research and developing policy recommendations on affordable housing, infrastructure, water affordability, artificial intelligence, and workforce policy.
- Producing blogs, technical reports, Congressional testimonies, comment letters, and literature reviews on various policy topics.
- Drafting a white paper with policy recommendations for Members of Congress that addresses the challenges artificial intelligence and automation will have on the current and future American workforce.
- Actively featured as a panelist at BPC and partner organization public events and podcasts for policy issues on infrastructure, evidence-based policymaking, and social/economic racial inequities.
- Contributing to numerous policy summits, roundtable discussions, and congressional meetings.
- Supervising interns in conducting relevant policy research and ensuring professional development.
- Co-founded the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee.

**Research Analyst for the Evidence Project**

August 2018–June 2019

- Co-edited *Evidence Works: Cases Where Evidence Meaningfully Informed Policy*, a 200+ page books with 20 case studies that included anti-poverty, health, education, economic, housing, and environmental policies.
- Project managed the *Evidence Works*, which consisted of conducting exploratory research, content analysis, promotion, copy editing, and designing the book.
- Advocated for the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on Evidence-based Policymaking and briefed congressional staff and federal department program leaders.
- Assisted in providing formal educational assistance to stakeholders, constituents, congressional staff, and federal agency leaders about the Evidence Commission's report and the Foundation for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018.
- Produced technical papers, briefs, and blogs, highlighting the importance of evidence-based policymaking.
- Assisted in knowledge building and brokering of using research findings to inform new policies, improve the effectiveness of existing programs, and supporting data collection and analysis for research and management.

**Survey and Evaluation Research Lab at Virginia Commonwealth University** • Richmond, VA 23220

**Qualitative & Quantitative Research Assistant**

May 2016–August 2018

- Conducted surveys and program evaluations to inform policy decisions for the state, local, and non-profit clients.
- Assisted in data management and collection for multiple concurrent projects in a deadline-driven environment.
- Performed interviews and focus groups on policy areas involving social work, transportation, poverty, and criminal justice.
- Utilized statistical software to construct charts, mean comparisons, and mean correlations.
- Formulated written reports and disseminated study findings to various stakeholder groups.

**Office of the Governor Terry McAuliffe of Virginia** • Richmond, VA 23220

**Constituent Services Intern**

May 2015–September 2015

- Communicated with constituents and assisted in advocating for restoration rights, women's rights, removal of confederate license plates, and supporting the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).
- Responded to and developed reports on constituent's inquiries and cases.
- Wrote and drafted proclamations, congratulatory letters, and state policy proposal notes.
- Provided administrative support to the staff of the Constituent Services Office and other departments.

## Education

Virginia Commonwealth University • Richmond, VA 23284

**Master's in Public Administration**

January 2016-May 2018

- Accepted into the Accelerated Master's Program in fall 2016.
- Courses: Policy Analysis, Qualitative Research Methods, Quantitative Research, and Virginia State and Local Politics.

*Bachelor of Arts in Political Science*

August 2013- December 2016

- Graduated Magna Cum Laude.
- Minors: International Relations and Public Administration and Policy
- Selected to present my research analysis of *The Social Security Act of 1935 and Today's Medicaid* to the VCU Political Science Research Conference of 2015.

## Professional Development

**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People** • Fairfax, Virginia

November 2019 – Present

- Member of the Fairfax chapter; attend monthly meetings.
- Currently serving as a volunteer on the Fair and Affordable Housing Committee.

**Thomas C. Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia**

**Political Leadership Program**

March 2020- Present

- Selected to join the political leadership development program for Virginians interested in becoming more active in-state public service.
- Participation in the program includes a 10-month tour of various locations across the state once a month to learn about each region's local economy, governance, and demographics.

**Emerging Leaders Program**

August 2019 – September 2019

- Worked in a bipartisan group to craft protective order policy proposals for the General Assembly of Virginia. Later, defended the proposal in front of a panel of advocates, which became part of Senate Bill 240 and House Bill 674.
- Studied public interest and transparency laws, FOIA, and other general ethical principles related to public service.
- Practiced the application of bipartisan cooperation in politics, including the use of mediation techniques, when engaging with classmates/guest speakers with different ideological beliefs, perspectives, and policy opinions.
- Elected Class President by my fellow peers.

**The Washington Evaluators** • Washington, D.C.

July 2019 – July 2020

*2019 New Professional Scholarship*

- Recognized as an emerging leader in the field of program evaluation.

**American University** • Washington, D.C.

September 2019 – April 2020

*Women in Politics Institute, WeLead Program*

- Selected to join the non-partisan program dedicated to closing the gender gap in the political arena by successfully positioning young professional women to run for office or lead a political campaign.

## Community Service

**Planning Commission** • Herndon, Virginia

September 2020 - Present

*Appointed Member*

- Designing and drafting town plan amendments, bylaws, and land use studies.
- Working alongside the Community Development office to review site plans.
- Conducting public hearings to interview applicants and engage with community members.
- Providing land use policy recommendations to the town council.

**United States Census Bureau** • Herndon, Virginia

May 2020 – September 2020

*Enumerator*

- Visiting assigned neighborhoods and knock on doors of households that have not yet participated in the Census.
- Explaining the purpose of the Census and, if successful in easing the resident's concerns, proceed with the interview and recording answers.

**Everybody Wins DC** • Washington, D.C.

*Reading Mentor*

January 2019 – March 2020

- Volunteer as a power lunch reading mentor.
- Attend weekly meetings with students to practice their reading comprehension skills.