



**Dawn Bishop, communications officer**

Coming from Amazon HR in Dinwiddie, Dawn is a wife and mother to three boys, who keep her very busy. She is also a volunteer firefighter with Prince George County. “I am excited to work this side of operations. I love helping people and giving back to the community,” she writes.

**Chekeen Danine Clark, communications officer**

Chekeen has two children, Carmelo and Cameron, ages 2 years and 3 months, and got engaged on Dec. 25. She graduated from Franklin Military Academy in 2012 as a captain and loves doing car modifications.



**Desmond Eche, communications officer**

Previously a certified correctional officer at Powhatan Classification Center and online CSR at Wells Fargo, Desmond studied criminal justice at Prince George’s Community College. He has a “beautiful wife” and “sweet baby girl.” He enjoys watching movies, listening to good music and spending time with his family.

**Jessica Gethers, communications officer**

From Jersey City, New Jersey, Jessica has been living in Richmond for three years and comes to DEC from the Department of Juvenile Justice, Bon Air Correctional Center. She is an avid reader and a former correctional officer. She wants to continue working in the criminal justice field.



**Rita Johnson, communications officer**

Rita is excited to join the DEC after recently being licensed as an insurance sales agent. As a Richmond native, she also has served as a volunteer, parent advocate and participant in Parks and Recreation, civic association and festivals. She has worked in corporate training with General Electric, Marriott, Chanel, WBTV, Radio One Richmond and others.

**Vanessa Jones, communications officer**

Employed with the City of Richmond for 2.5 years, Vanessa started with the Department of Social Services as a benefit program specialist. She is the mother of two adult children and grandmother to one. She enjoys spending time with family, friends, church and helping others. She also enjoys watching and playing baseball.





**Latrishe Mitchell, communications officer**

Previously with Amazon in Chester, Latrishe was born in Washington D.C. and raised in Hampton. She is currently a sophomore at Virginia State University with a passion for learning and meeting new people as well as a career as a cosmetologist. At 19 years old, she is the youngest staff member of the DEC.

**Dana Richio, communications officer**

Dana comes to the DEC from VCU. She has a huge family filled with people who love helping others. She has two German shepherd dogs and a Great Pyrenees dog.



**Megan Simpson, communications officer**

Coming from Sprint Wireless, Megan moved to Richmond to study at VCU, where she earned a bachelor's degree in mass communications. Her hobbies include working out and hanging with friends and family.

**Patrick Vales, operations technical support representative**

Patrick just completed his term of service in the U.S. Army, and his last duty station was Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, where he was an electronic warfare specialist and signal support systems specialist. He was in the U.S. Marine Corps, 2002-2006, as a marine aviation maintenance administration specialist. He enjoys reading about history, science fiction and anything Star Wars-related. He also likes to travel and explore different cultures and historical sites.



**Brittany Weirup, communications officer**

Brittany comes to the DEC from working at home to care for her 1-year-old daughter, Tinley, who is her pride. She enjoys listening to music and spending time with family. Her dream is to become a police officer.

**Herbert Williams, communications officer**

Herbert relocated to Virginia in October, coming from the New York City Department of Corrections, where he worked at the Riker Island Correctional Facility as a correction officer for five years. He enjoys being a father to his three children, ages 2 weeks, 3 years and 13 years. His favorite hobbies are basketball and bowling.

