

VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

2024: A Year in Review



Commonwealth of Virginia

Department of Corrections

Calendar Year 2024

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) Victim Services Unit (VSU) is committed to enhancing public safety by providing information, notification, support and trauma informed assistance to victims of crime whose perpetrators are under the custody or supervision of the VADOC. The VSU supports evidence-based perpetrator programming to identify the impact of their crimes on victims and communities. In addition to notification, the Victim Offender Dialogue program provides victims a voice and aids in the healing process.

CY2024 was another busy year for the Victim Services Unit.

Direct services were provided to more than 3,000 crime victims, VSU staff made presentations across the state and at national trainings and conferences, and the NAAVI system sent thousands of automated notifications. We continued another successful year with the Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) Program, the Victim Impact Program (VIP), and the Victim Speakers Bureau, moving our programming toward a vision of prevention, awareness, and healing. VSU staff completed 127 site visits to VADOC sites, and an additional 129 site visits to local Victim/Witness Assistance Programs, our close professional allies in the victim advocacy sphere. Staff also participated in local, state, and national coalitions, and our largest commemoration to date during National Crime Victims' Rights Week brought awareness to the rights and needs of crime victims across the Commonwealth.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- * Direct services provided to more than **3,000 crime victims**
- * Victim Impact Program: **22 active VADOC sites** with **295 program completions** at facilities, CCAPs, and districts
- * The Victim Impact Program video **won an Emmy** (Crime/Justice Long Form Category)
- * More than **12,000 automated notifications** sent via the NAAVI system
- * **2 VOD cases completed** and 2 cases in preparation
- * NIC Technical Assistance **site visit from the Idaho DOC** to assist with development of their programs
- * Three-day Victim Impact Facilitator training **provided on-site to the Louisiana DOC**
- * **Over \$4,600** provided in travel reimbursement for Speakers Bureau volunteers

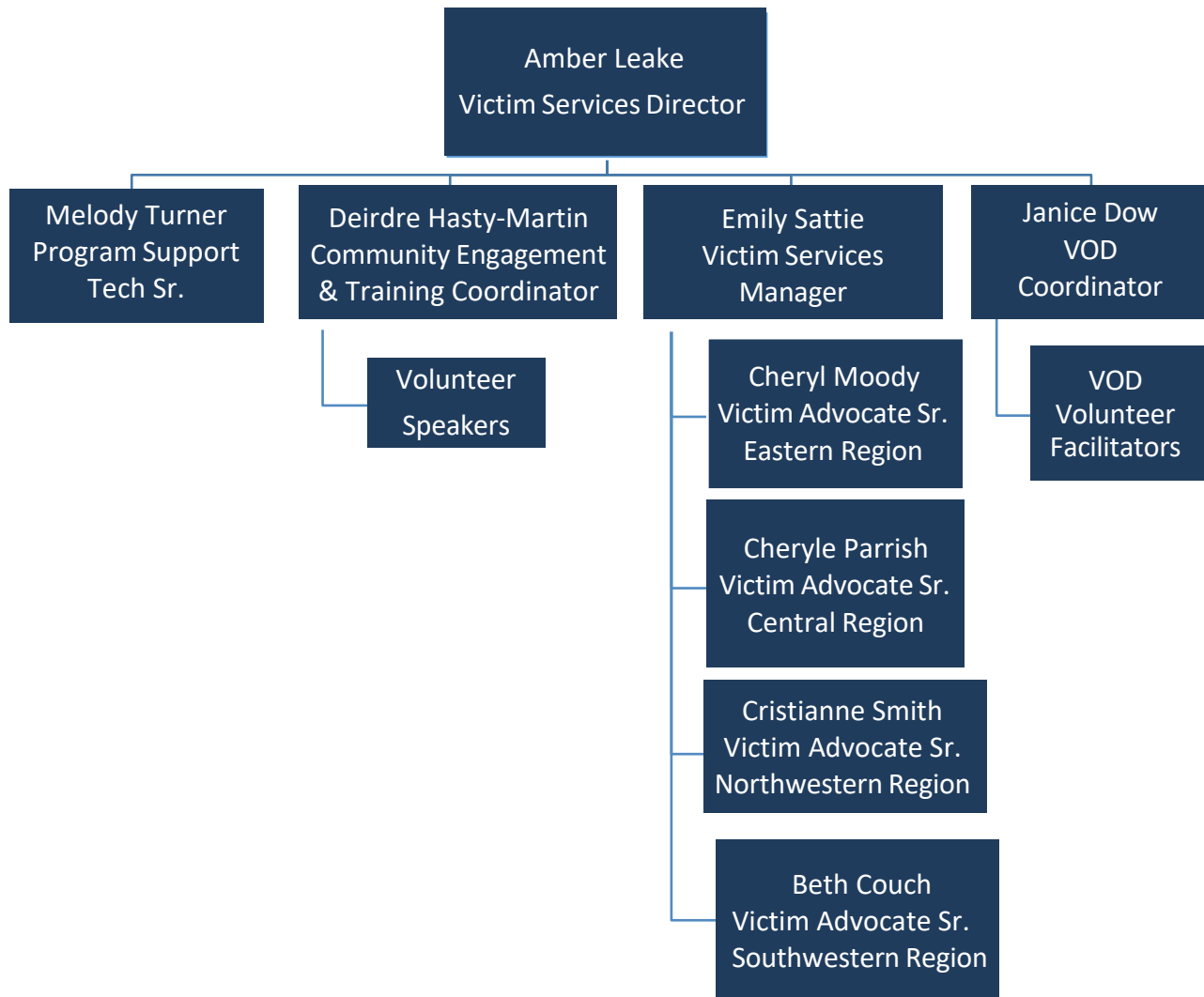
About the VSU

The Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) is committed to supporting the rights and needs of victims of VADOC inmates and supervisees. Consistent with its mission and Virginia's Crime Victims' Bill of Rights, the VADOC strives to keep crime victims informed and involved during the post-sentencing phase of Virginia's justice system. Victims and survivors, their families, and communities are supported by the department in the aftermath of crime. The Victim Services Unit (VSU) supports evidence-based programming through which participants have the opportunity to learn about empathy and take accountability for their actions in order to better understand the impact of their crimes on victims and communities.



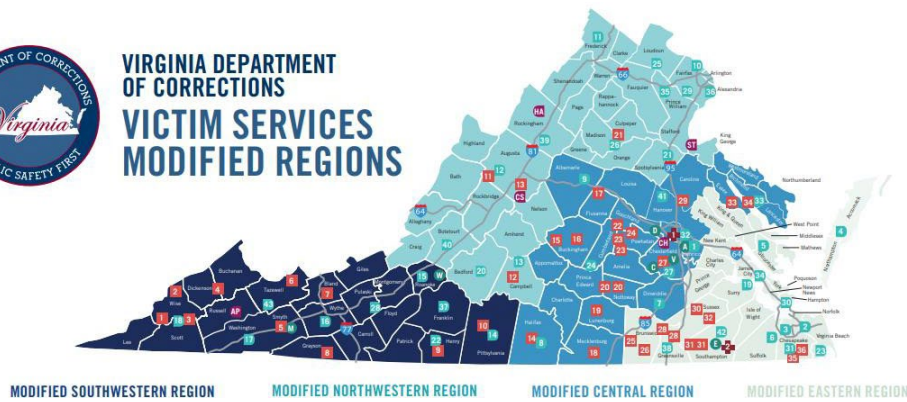
Organizational Structure

The VSU office is located at VADOC Headquarters in Richmond, VA and falls under the Division of Programs, Education, and Re-entry. With a combination of agency and Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) grant funds, the VSU is staffed with eight full-time and one part time staff. Volunteers additionally provide critical support, both in the form of crime victim guest speakers sharing their stories at the Victim Impact Program and other trainings and events, and VADOC staff volunteering their time as VOD facilitators.





VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS VICTIM SERVICES MODIFIED REGIONS



127 VADOC Site Visits

Major Institution Visits-Augusta Correctional Center (now closed), Baskerville Correctional Center, Beaumont Correctional Center, Bland Correctional Center, Buckingham Correctional Center, Coffeewood Correctional Center, Deerfield Correctional Center, Dillwyn Correctional Center, Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, Green Rock Correctional Center, Greensville Correctional Center, Haynesville Correctional Center, Indian Creek Correctional Center, Keen Mountain Correctional Center, Lawrenceville Correctional Center, Lunenburg Correctional Center, Marion Correctional Treatment Center, Nottoway Correctional Center, Pocahontas State Correctional Center, Red Onion State Prison, River North Correctional Center, State Farm Correctional Center, Sussex State Prison, Virginia Correctional Center for Women, Wallens Ridge State Prison

Work Unit Visits-Cold Springs, Caroline, Halifax, Nottoway, Rustburg, Unit #13, Wise

CCAP Visits-Appalachian CCAP, Brunswick CCAP, Chesterfield CCAP, Cold Springs CCAP

Community Corrections Visits-District 1-Richmond, District 2-Norfolk, District 3-Portsmouth, District 5-Gloucester, District 6-Suffolk, District 7-Petersburg, District 8-South Boston, Unit 9-Charlottesville, District 10-Arlington, District 11-Winchester, District 12-Staunton, District 13-Lynchburg, District 14- Danville, District 15-Roanoke, District 16-Wytheville, District 17-Abingdon, District 18-Norton, District 20-Bedford, District 21-Fredericksburg, District 22-Martinsville, District 23-Virginia Beach, District 24- Farmville, District 25-Leesburg, District 27-Chesterfield, District 28-Radford, District 29-Fairfax, District 32-Henrico, District 33-Warsaw, District 34-Williamsburg, District 35-Manassas, District 36-Alexandria, District 37-Rocky Mount, District 38-Emporia, District 39-Harrisonburg, District 40-Fincastle, District 41- Ashland, District 42-Franklin, District 43-Tazewell

129 Victim/Witness Site Visits

Victim/Witness Assistance Program Visits-Albemarle, Alexandria, Allegheny, Amelia, Amherst, Appomattox, Arlington, Bedford, Bland, Botetourt, Bristol, Buchanan, Buckingham, Brunswick, Campbell, Caroline, Carroll, Charlotte, Charlottesville, Chesapeake, Chesterfield, Clarke, Colonial Heights, Cumberland, Danville, Dickenson, Dinwiddie, Essex, Fairfax, Fluvanna, Franklin, Fredericksburg, Giles, Gloucester, Goochland, Grayson, Greensville/Emporia, Hampton, Halifax, Hanover, Henrico, Henry, Hopewell, James City/Williamsburg, Lancaster, Lee, Loudoun/Leesburg, Louisa, Lunenburg, Lynchburg, Madison, Manassas, Mathews, Martinsville, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Montgomery, Nelson, New Kent/Charles City, Norfolk, Northumberland, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Patrick, Petersburg, Pittsylvania, Portsmouth, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Prince George, Pulaski, Radford/Floyd, Richmond City, Richmond County, Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Rockingham/Harrisonburg, Russell, Salem, Scott, Shenandoah, Smyth, Stafford, Sussex, Tazewell, Virginia Beach, Warren, Washington, Westmoreland, Winchester, Wise, Wythe, York/Poquoson

Trainings/Presentations

January

Stalking Awareness Month seminars Basic Skills for Counselors
Basic Skills for Probation Officers

February

Victim Impact Quarterly Facilitator Meeting VVAN
Advocate Essentials Academy

March

NAVAC Conference, Pensacola, FL:
“From Harm to Healing: Bridging the Gap between Victims and Perpetrators”, and “Cross-Agency Engagement: How to Market Your Services and Build Relationships”
Post-Conviction Victim Services: Presentation for Radford University
Basic Skills for Counselors
Basic Skills for Probation Officers

April

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week Lunch and Learn series

- Stalking/Intimate Partner Violence
- Drunk and Impaired Driving
- Homicide
- Child Abuse
- Assault/Gun Violence

May

Hearings Officer Conference
Victim Impact Quarterly Facilitator Meeting

June

Victim Impact Facilitator Training Basic Skills for Counselors
Basic Skills for Probation Officers
NIC Technical Assistance for Idaho DOC



July

Basic Skills for Counselors
Basic Skills for Mental Health Clinicians

August

Victim Impact Quarterly Facilitator Training Basic Skills for Probation Officers
American Polygraph Association Conference, New Orleans, LA

September

Beyond Gunshots Conference, Richmond, VA
Post-Conviction Victim Services: Presentation for Virginia Commonwealth University Victimology students
Basic Skills for Counselors
Basic Skills for Probation Officers

October

Basic Skills for Probation Officers
Domestic Violence Awareness Month: Break the Silence Lunch and Learn series

- Family Crisis Support Services
- Thriver Zone
- Women’s Resource Center of the New River Valley
- Bethany House
- Red Rover
- Safe Harbor

November

Victim Impact Facilitator Training for Louisiana DOC, New Orleans, LA

December

Victim Impact Quarterly Facilitator Meeting
Basic Skills for Counselors
Basic Skills for Probation Officers

Participation in 15 Coalitions and Councils

Regional Victim Coalition Participation-6th Judicial District Advocacy Coalition, Appalachian Reentry Council, Central Virginia Victim Services Coalition, Elder Justice Task Force, Focus On Communities Utilizing Services, Giles Youth Adult Partnership, Hampton Roads Coalition, Heart of Virginia Coalition, Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula, Pulaski Coordinating Council, Southside Wellness Coalition, Southwest Virginia Elder Justice Task Force, Southwest Virginia Victim Coalition, SSCA, VCART



Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD)

The Virginia Department of Corrections provides a facilitated Victim Offender Dialogue (VOD) process. This process is victim-initiated and inmate sensitive. After a series of preparation meetings with a trained facilitator, a face-to-face dialogue may occur between the victim/survivor and the perpetrator responsible for the crime.

In 2024, four staff completed VOD training at the National Institute of Corrections in Aurora, CO.

1 Completed VOD

February: Sussex I – Homicide

1 Completed VOD Lite: Letter Exchange

June: Greenville – Homicide

2 VODs in preparation

Nottoway – Homicide

Wallens Ridge – Assault

2 VODs in pre-approval status

Victim Registrations, Notifications & Services

The VADOC Victim Services Unit serves as a guide for victims during the post-sentencing phase of the Virginia criminal justice system, providing information about intake, classification, time calculation, and release planning. Victims also receive assistance and information about the re-entry plan, including safety planning, service referrals, and assistance with the transition to community corrections.

Total Victims Served

Calendar Year	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Total
CY2022	777	721	879	765	3,142
CY2023	816	753	863	797	3,229
CY2024	757	822	743	695	3,017

Victim/Client Surveys Distributed

Calendar Year	Total Distribution
CY2022	1,063
CY2023	1,852
CY2024	2,857

80% of survey respondents were satisfied with NAAVI services

“To me it appears that the agency has always been proactive in keeping pace with changes in tech-communication. And most importantly, remembering the families of victims.”

“You are invaluable to us as the victims of violent crime. Every interaction I have had, especially on the phone, has been very informative. You have listened as I choked out my sentences and cried. Thank you.”

Since October 2021, NAAVI (Notification And Assistance for Victim Inclusion) has provided automated notifications to crime victims while their perpetrator is in VADOC custody. To receive automated notifications, victims must register with the system.



Automated Victim Notifications

Category	CY2022	CY2023	CY2024
Advanced Release	1,390	1,243	1,621
Release	875	709	903
Transfer	3,306	4,165	5,437
Work Release	6	6	13
Name Change	24	19	14
Change of Release Date	451	325	942
Now in Custody	162	341	375
Parole Interview/Decision	3,128	3,191	3,451
Release Date Set (NEW!)	-	-	113
Total	9,342	9,999	12,869



New Registrations

	CY2022	CY2023	CY2024
Registrations Approved	1,100	1,007	1,091



Death Notifications

	CY2022	CY2023	CY2024
Deceased inmates with victims registered	41	26	33

Automated Victim Notifications in CY2024

Notification Type	Percentage
Transfer	42%
Parole Events	27%
Release Events	20%
Work Release, Name Change, etc.	8%
Now in Custody	3%

Unwanted Contact

When an inmate reaches out or attempts to reach out to a member of the general public, including their crime victims or those they have threatened in the past, it can be devastating. The 136B institutional charge was added to Policy 861.1 in 2017 in response to an increase in occurrences statewide. This institutional charge holds inmates accountable for contact that is threatening and/or contact that violates a court order.

In 2024, VSU held 26 inmates accountable for threatening and/or prohibited contact

Victim Impact Program



This education/awareness curriculum is focused on sensitizing participants to the impact that crime has on victims, families, and the community. The program is structured to encourage accountability and to foster a level of empathy toward crime victims and survivors. The goal of this program is to have inmates and supervisees increase their insight into the harm they have caused their victims and the ripple effect of that harm throughout the community. VIP is a 13-week program with each session lasting approximately 2.5 hours. Each subsection of offenses covered in the curriculum focuses on the financial, physical, emotional, and religious/spiritual impacts of crime. The program also incorporates the use of victim speakers. The photos displayed above capture moments from awareness activities conducted at Cold Springs CCAP and Chesterfield CCAP.

In 2024, two members of VSU participated in a workgroup sponsored by the US Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to revise and update the curriculum, with the new changes coming out soon.

2024 By the Numbers

Total Sites with VIP trained staff:
24 facilities, **5** CCAPs, **22** P&P Districts

177 trained staff statewide

22 sites ran the program

295 participants completed the 13-week VIP Program

188 participants took part in Victimology Topic Seminars

Victim Impact Shining Stars

Coffeewood CC

Keen Mountain CC

Green Rock CC

Lunenburg CC

Lawrenceville CC

District 35: Manassas

District 43: Tazewell



Crime Victim Speakers Bureau

VSU strives to include victim and survivor voices in the correctional process, especially as a part of the Victim Impact: Listen and Learn program. Speaking can empower victims and give voice to their experiences. It also aids inmates and supervisees in understanding the true impact and “ripple effect” of their crimes on victims, survivors, and the community. Guest speakers can also assist staff in understanding an important perspective of crime and criminal justice.

2024 By the Numbers

12 active speakers

35 Victim Speaker Presentations at Victim Impact classes, trainings, and conferences

253 volunteer hours given to VADOC by Speakers Bureau members

Victim Travel Reimbursement

Calendar Year	Total Paid
CY2022	\$2,211.24
CY2023	\$6,047.56
CY2024	\$4,670.55

Highlight: Emmy Award



The VSU video project highlighting the Victim Impact: Listen and Learn produced by Bookend Creative was honored with an Emmy at the 66th National Capital Chesapeake Emmy Awards on June 22, 2024. The Capital Emmy Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences recognizes outstanding individual achievement in the region by conferring annual merit awards. The Emmy Award is the “gold standard” in the television profession across all media platforms.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7tVHmJ4Jbo>

Highlight: TedX

From survivor to advocate: Paige shares her powerful journey of healing, hope, and giving back.

In a first of its kind event in a Virginia prison, a TEDx was hosted by Green Rock Correctional Center on May 7, 2024. Featuring more than two dozen presentations, Speakers Bureau member Paige shared how she has turned her pain into purpose and works to make a difference within the criminal justice system and through VADOC's Victim Impact Program.

Her story is a testament to the power of recovery, collaboration, and the impact one person can have on their community.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRvERnhRrCg>

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

and other awareness activities and commemorations

During April of 2024, staff, inmates, and probationers participated in activities across the state to honor crime victims. The annual **Color ME Aware** Campaign was met with great support, and this year's Poster Contest had the largest number of poster submissions to date, with votes coming in from across the state and the nation.

Major events:

- Homicide Awareness Bowling Tournament
- Child Abuse Awareness Motorcycle Ride
- 1st Annual Norton 5K
- 4th Annual Radford 5K



National Crime Victims Rights Week

and other awareness activities and commemorations continued...

DUI Awareness



Inmate Partner Violence Awareness



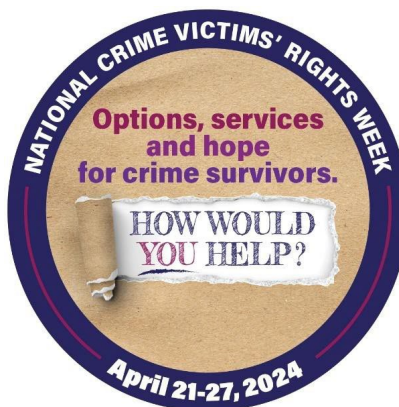
Assault /Gun Violence Awareness



Child Abuse Awareness



Color Me Aware



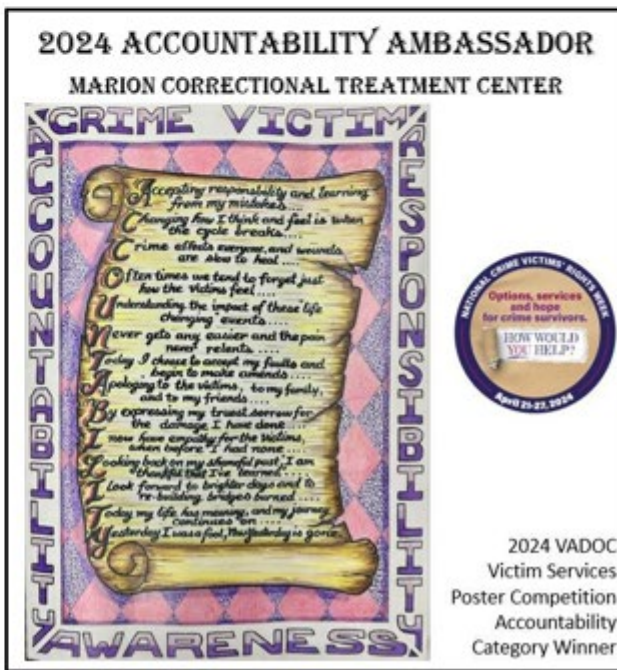
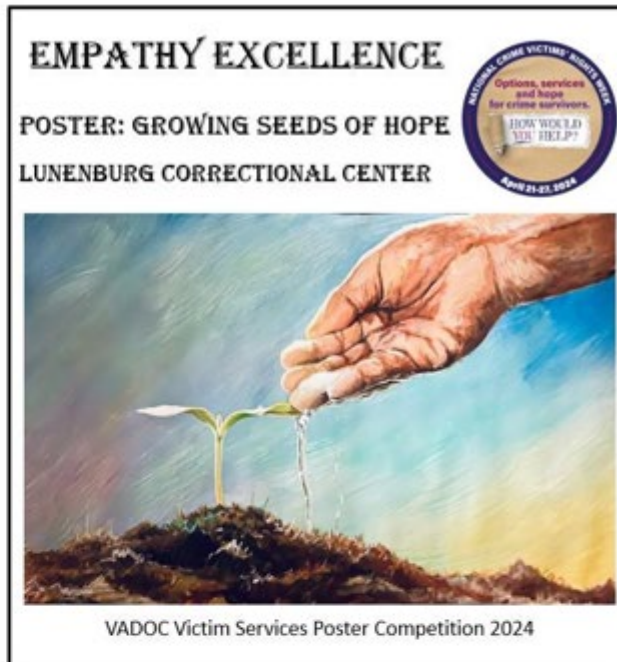
Homicide Awareness



National Crime Victims' Rights Week

and other awareness activities and commemorations, con.

The Annual Poster contest winners were Greenville CC, Lunenburg CC, Dillwyn CC, and Marion CTC:



National Crime Victims' Rights Week

and other awareness activities and commemorations, con.

Other statewide commemorations included **Stalking Awareness Month**, **Child Abuse Awareness Month**, **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, **Red Ribbon Week**, and **Homicide Awareness Month**.



Advocate Credentialing

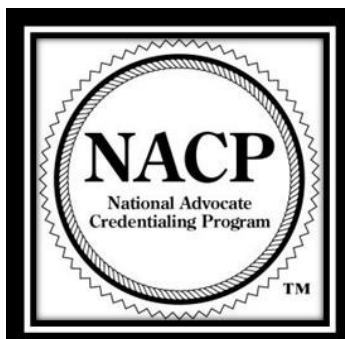
In recent years, the National Advocate Credentialing Program (NACP), administered by the National Organization for Victim Assistance, has been growing in recognition across the nation. As of 2024, two members of VSU are credentialed. This prestigious designation highlights their expertise and dedication, each with over 8 years in victim advocacy and an impressive 15,000 hours of victim services experience.

Cheryle Parrish and Deirdre Hasty-Martin

Comprehensive Victim Intervention Specialists – Advanced Level



Cheryle Parrish



Deirdre Hasty-Martin

Publications/Media

[Victim Impact Program– 6 Minute Overview](#)



[Victim Impact Program - 50 minute Inside Look](#)



Contact Victim Services at victimservices@vadoc.virginia.gov or (800) 560-4292