



## The Alumni Development Program TRAINING ALUMNI

### Invites You To Attend SO, YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE Statewide Continuing Education Workshop

**Friday, October 24, 2025 • 12 PM – 2 PM**

Join us for this educational and engaging session.

This workshop will share practical advocacy tips and strategies to help you have your voice heard. Participants will learn effective approaches for legislative meetings, delivering public testimony, writing impactful letters, organizing phone campaigns, and using tools like petitions, proclamations, and resolutions to advance their cause.



**Heidi Lawyer** has worked in disability policy and advocacy for more than 30 years. She served as Deputy Director and then Interim Director of Virginia's Protection and Advocacy System, as well as Executive Director of the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities. She was a parent co-founder of the Autism Program of Virginia, now Commonwealth Autism.

Heidi joined the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) in 2020 after retiring from state service and, in 2024, became its Deputy Director, where she is involved with policy efforts, resource creation, and family support. Heidi's commitment to advocacy began when her now 39-year-old son was diagnosed with autism. She has advocated for individuals with disabilities and their families at the local, state, and federal levels.

Visit [www.PEATC.org](http://www.PEATC.org): "Building Positive Futures for Virginia's Children."



### Register to Attend

*Meeting will be held virtually on Zoom.*

**For more information about this event, you can contact us at [training@vbpd.virginia.gov](mailto:training@vbpd.virginia.gov).**

Funding for this project/product was supported, in part, by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, under grant number 2301VASCDD-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.