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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VEC Announces Joanna Darcus as New Deputy Commissioner

RICHMOND, VA — February 23, 2026 — The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) announces today Joanna Darcus will serve as the agency's new Deputy Commissioner. Darcus was appointed by Governor Abigail Spanberger.



"I am honored to join the Virginia Employment Commission and serve alongside such a dedicated and mission-driven team," said Deputy Commissioner Joanna Darcus. "I look forward to building on the agency's progress, working collaboratively to enhance how we deliver services and helping ensure Virginians have access to the assistance they need."

Darcus brings nearly 20 years of experience focused on delivering legal and government services in a collaborative, data-informed and strategic manner. Most recently, she served as an attorney with the Virginia Poverty Law Center, where she led work on unemployment insurance policy, including legislative advocacy and training for the legal aid community. Her career also includes service with the U.S. Department of Education, the National Consumer Law Center, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, and the Juvenile Law Center, with a consistent focus on strengthening public programs and improving access to critical services.

"Throughout my career, I've worked to ensure public systems operate effectively for the people they serve," said Deputy Commissioner Joanna Darcus. "I'm excited to bring that same dedication to VEC and collaborating with our teams and partners to ensure our services are accessible, responsive and impactful for Virginians across the Commonwealth."

Darcus is a graduate of Albemarle High School, Williams College, and Duke University School of Law.

As Deputy Commissioner, Darcus will help guide the agency's continued focus on service delivery and operational excellence.

For more information on unemployment insurance benefits and VEC services, please visit: www.vec.virginia.gov.

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