



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE

CENTRAL LABORATORY
A Nationally Accredited Laboratory
dfs.virginia.gov

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CUSTOMER NOTICE

To: All Agencies Served by DFS

From: Amy C. Jenkins, Chief Deputy Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy C. Jenkins".

Date: June 23, 2026

RE: Department of Forensic Science (DFS) Leadership Change

After 31 years of dedicated service to the Department, Director **Linda C. Jackson** has announced her retirement, effective July 31, 2026. With the successful transition to the new Central Laboratory facility in Mechanicsville now complete, Director Jackson feels this is the right moment to take her next big step.

She began her career at DFS in 1995 as a Controlled Substances Forensic Scientist. She went on to serve as Section Supervisor, Controlled Substances Section Chief, and Chemistry Program Manager before being appointed in 2013 by Governor Robert F. McDonnell as the first woman Director. She has continued to serve as Director under four successive administrations.

Director Jackson has been an active leader in the national forensic science community, serving on the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWGDRUG), the National Commission on Forensic Science, the Board of Directors for the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), and NIJ Forensic Laboratory Needs – Technology Working Group.

Under her leadership, DFS has delivered high-quality, reliable service to the criminal justice system while consistently upholding its independence and its commitment to impartiality, integrity, and transparency.

She will be greatly missed!

DFS is also pleased to share that Governor Spanberger has appointed **Alka B. Lohmann** to serve as the next Director, effective August 1. Ms. Lohmann earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Virginia and received her Master of Science degree in Pharmacology & Toxicology from the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Since joining DFS in 2000, she has held the positions of Forensic Scientist Supervisor in the Breath Alcohol Section, the Breath Alcohol Section Chief, and the Program Manager for Calibration and Training. In 2013, she was named the Director of Technical Services (Quality Manager) and head of the Breath Alcohol Calibration Laboratory.

Beyond her work within DFS, Ms. Lohmann has made significant contributions to the forensic science profession. She has served as President, Vice-President, and Secretary, and a member of the Board of Directors for the International Association for Chemical Testing (IACT). In 2019, she received IACT's prestigious Kurt M. Dubowski Award for her career-long contributions in the field of chemical testing related to workplace and transportation safety.

Ms. Lohmann is on the faculty of the Robert F. Borkenstein Alcohol and Highway Safety Course through Indiana University's Center for Studies of Law in Action and is a member of the National Safety Council Alcohol, Drugs and Impairment Division, where she previously served as Secretary and as an Executive Board member. She also has served on the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) Board of Directors and on the North Carolina Forensic Science Advisory Board.

During the upcoming month of transition, we look forward to celebrating Director Jackson's remarkable contributions to the Department and the broader forensic scientific community.