

Jeanne Zeidler

Jeanne Zeidler's career in Virginia's educational and cultural organizations spans nearly four decades. She has a parallel record of exemplary public service.

Her most recent professional position was as executive director of Jamestown 2007. In this capacity she directed the event office for the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown with a staff of up to 16 full-time employees, and managed contractors in the fields of marketing, public relations, creative development and event production, and sponsorship sales. The results were 13 Signature Events over an 18 month period that 2.5 million people participated in on site; 181 localities across Virginia and beyond joining the community program; 150 businesses and organizations signing on as partners; 12 billion earned media impressions; and 13 corporate sponsorships whose investments totaled nearly \$12 million dollars. She also served as chair of the Historic Triangle Jamestown 2007 Host Committee which recruited 120 local professionals to: ensure that marketing, messaging and educational programming was coordinated among partner organizations; that the guest experience was exceptional; and that the local community was informed and engaged.

Prior to Jamestown 2007, Ms. Zeidler spent more than three years overseeing the renovation and expansion of Colonial Williamsburg's Kimball Theatre, and developing its programming model and hiring staff. From 1980 until 2001, she served as the Director of the Hampton University Museum. In this capacity, she grew the annual budget from \$35,000 per year to \$1.3 million; expanded the collections, staff and programming; and oversaw the \$5 million renovation of the university's former library to house the museum and archives. During her career at Hampton University she wrote and administered over 50 grant projects supported by a variety of public and private sources. Her professional work began in 1972 at the Hampton Association for the Arts and Humanities where she served as Director of Education and later as Cultural Center Manager directing and securing support for two sites.

Jeanne Zeidler became the City of Williamsburg's first female Mayor in July 1998. She was elected to the Williamsburg City Council in 1994, 1998, 2002, and 2006 serving as Vice Mayor from 1996-1998, and as Mayor from 1998 to the present time. Prior to her election to City Council, Ms. Zeidler served for four years on the Williamsburg-James City County School Board, including service as both Vice Chair and Chair of the Board. She has served as a Williamsburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority Commissioner, board member of the Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce, the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and Metropolitan Planning Organization, including service as Vice Chair and Chair of both organizations, as well as on other boards and commissions. Her current public service includes gubernatorial appointments to the Fort Monroe Federal Area Development Authority and its Preservation Advisory Committee.

Ms. Zeidler is a member of the Williamsburg Rotary Club and was the first woman to hold the office of club president. She is a Life Member of the NAACP, and a member of the Williamsburg Area League of Women Voters.

She holds a B.A. degree in American History from the University of Wisconsin and a M.A. in history Education from the College of William and Mary. She is married to Edward P. Crapol, Professor Emeritus of American History at the College of William and Mary. They are the parents of Andrew Crapol.

Recent Awards

2003 Prentis Award, College of William and Mary

2004 Presidential Citizenship Award, Hampton University

2005 Roll of the Drum, Williamsburg Area Chamber of Commerce

2006 Corporate Citizen, Williamsburg Area Chamber and Tourism Alliance

2007 VCCJ Humanitarian Award