

AAUW-VA is presenting

*How to Create Inclusive Spaces.*

The date is Saturday, January 22, 2022, from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

The Zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87576452124?pwd=OTN0UEU1OVNrNGhTUGR1VHhpU01pdz09>

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has been a major topic of discussion among AAUW branches in the past two years.

- **Diversity** refers to characteristics, the dimensions that make each of us unique.
- **Inclusion** entails behaviors and actions that make us feel welcomed or not.

An environment that creates a sense of belonging, where everyone feels welcomed and included, is essential for the success of diversity efforts.

Research suggests that environments where people feel supported, welcomed, respected and, valued are actually more productive. In an inclusive environment, people of all cultural orientations will feel comfortable freely expressing their own opinions and points of view.

**JOIN US AS WE LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO CREATE INCLUSIVE SPACES.**

The esteemed panel members are:

Krysta Jones, Somya Dwivedi-Burks, Ph.D. and Jonathan Zur

Krysta Jones has committed her life to public service, developing leaders, and changing lives. In 2021 she helped organize the Leadership Center for Excellence racial equity listening sessions and statewide summit designed to highlight successful programming and strategize about how to achieve racial equity in Virginia.

Krysta successfully represented two associations for eight years as a registered lobbyist, advocating for women's and socio-economic status issues, and served as the Director of Outreach for two Members of Congress.

Krysta is a member of the Arlington, Virginia branch of AAUW.

### Somya Dwivedi-Burks, Ph.D.

Dr. Dwivedi-Burks has thrived in the intersection of learning, facilitation and, designing inclusive experiences.

As a principal consultant of Somya Trains LLC, Somya has helped teams to move beyond the perspective of "training for awareness" and provided results for building inclusion through cultural intelligence. Somya is a learning professional who works in the space of designing experiences for organizations. Her experience as an immigrant and non-white woman catalyzed her learning journey and built her passion to work in the DEI space. She is a practitioner of inclusion and building spaces to encourage thinking and developing mutual growth.

Somya lives in the Virginia Beach area and has been a member of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities Tidewater chapter since 2018.

### Jonathan Zur

Jonathan C. Zur is President & CEO of the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC), an organization that works with schools, businesses, and communities to achieve success through inclusion.

An experienced facilitator and consultant on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion, Jonathan was appointed by the Governor of Virginia to the Commonwealth Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, formed in the aftermath of the tragedy in Charlottesville in August 2017.