



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Staunton, VA – August 1, 2018

Contact: Joe Herget – Director of Marketing

Tel: 540-332-7850

Email: [joe.herget@fcmv.virginia.gov](mailto:joe.herget@fcmv.virginia.gov)

STAUNTON, Virginia, August 1, 2018 — The Board of Trustees of the Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia (FCMV) today announced that Dr. Megan Newman will become the Museum's new Executive Director on August 20, 2018, succeeding John Avoli who led the Agency for 15 years until his retirement in March of 2017. Interim Director Eric Bryan managed Museum operations during the candidate search process. Dr. Newman is currently Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations at VMI Foundation.

"This is an exciting time for both the Museum and Dr. Newman" said Paul Vames, Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Frontier Culture Museum. "Attendance has grown 50% over the past 5 years, and the Museum is poised to continue that success under Dr. Newman's leadership." Newman will also oversee the installation of the final pieces of the Museum's master plan including construction of a working grist mill, an artisan crafts village, and most importantly an Atlantic Crossing Gallery and Education Center. Almost half of the Museum's visitors are school-age children from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Dr. Newman received her PhD in American Studies, and her M.A. in Anthropology / Archaeology from the College of William and Mary. She received her B.A. in French / Anthropology from Wellesley College.

"I am excited to be joining the team of staff, volunteers, and supporters at the Frontier Culture Museum. It gives me an opportunity to merge my interests in history and education with my experience in administration and development", Newman said. "This will be an exciting and rewarding role for me, and I am so looking forward to working with everyone to tell the compelling stories of the many communities in the Valley."

"We are thrilled to have Dr. Newman join the team and look forward to her applying her experiences with State and not-for-profit educational and historical organizations to the Frontier Culture Museum", said Kenneth Venable, Chair of the Selection Committee. "Her background in history and anthropology combined with experience in museum collections, exhibits, and operations is a perfect fit with the Frontier Culture Museum's educational mission."

Questions should be directed to:

Paul Vames – Chair of the Board of Trustees

540 255-6000 Mobile

540 886-2021 Office

[ppv@verizon.net](mailto:ppv@verizon.net)

*Frontier Culture Museum of Virginia*  
1290 Richmond Road, Staunton, VA 24401  
[www.frontiermuseum.org](http://www.frontiermuseum.org) 540-332-7850

## Biography – Dr. Megan Newman



Megan Haley Newman joins the staff at the Frontier Culture Museum from her most recent position as the Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at the Virginia Military Institute Foundation in Lexington, VA.

She brings with her a professional background in museum leadership, academic administration, education, and fundraising. She also brings a personal passion for public history and an enthusiasm for the things we can accomplish today by learning from the lessons and models of community in the past.

She grew up in Massachusetts and was graduated from Wellesley College with a degree in French and Anthropology/Archaeology. Her interest in old things and the stories they tell led to a Master's degree in Historical Archaeology and a PhD in American Studies from the College of William and Mary. Those educational experiences opened the door for opportunities in field archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg, Historic Jamestowne, and southern France. In addition, they enabled research and curatorial appointments at Montpelier, James Madison's estate, and The Stonewall Jackson House Museum, as well as teaching engagements in Anthropology, American Studies, and History at the College of William and Mary and the Virginia Military Institute.

More recently, Dr. Newman has worked in support of the educational objectives at the Virginia Military Institute by serving as their Interlibrary Loan Manager, Sponsored Programs Administrator, and the Director of the Center for Undergraduate Research.

### **About The Museum:**

The Frontier Culture Museum shows how a new and unique culture evolved in early America from its roots in the Old World. Living History interpreters work in original and reconstructed buildings from Europe, Africa, and America to illustrate how diverse people and cultures blended together into a new American way of life.

The Museum is an outdoor museum and educational institution that is open to the public 362 days a year. Appropriate clothing and comfortable walking shoes are recommended to cover the Museum's 150+ acres of exhibits. On-site transportation options are available. Please contact the Welcome Center at (540) 332-7850 for further details.