

NEWS RELEASE

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Virginia Aquarium Employee Receives 2017 City of Virginia Beach Hall of Fame Award

(Virginia Beach, VA) Caryl Thompson, the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center's Director of Marketing and Public Relations, was named a recipient of the 2017 City of Virginia Beach Employee Hall of Fame Award on Wednesday, June 6 in a ceremony at the Virginia Aquarium.

Caryl began her career with the City of Virginia Beach in 1986 as a lifeguard for the Department of Parks and Recreation. After graduating from Old Dominion University, she became an Aquatics Recreation Specialist, eventually ascending to a marketing role in the Parks and Recreation department's marketing bureau. During her tenure with Parks and Recreation, she received the City Manager's Award in 1995, 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2002. Caryl also received the Parks and Recreation Distinguished Service award in 2006. She joined the Aquarium team in 2015 as the Director of Marketing and Public Relations and has maintained the role ever since.

"In the short time that I have been fortunate enough to work with Caryl, she has rapidly become one of my go-to employees," said Cynthia Whitbred-Spanoulis, Deputy Director of the Virginia Aquarium. "She constantly goes above and beyond her daily duties, and has been an invaluable addition to an already impressive department, and I was proud to nominate her for such an honor."

The City of Virginia Beach Employee Hall of Fame Award is an annual tribute to outstanding City employees. Nominations are made by fellow City employees, and a committee of City employees select the recipient.

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums whose mission is conservation through education. The Aquarium is located at 717 General Booth Boulevard, just south of Rudee Inlet in Virginia Beach. For more information on exhibits, movies, boat rides and special events, call (757) 385-FISH (3474), (TDD 385-4305) or visit www.VirginiaAquarium.com.

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