



Virginia Business Names Appian Chief People Officer Susan Charnaux a 2026 Women in Leadership Awards Recipient

September 30, 2026

Honorees have demonstrated remarkable leadership while making an impact in Virginia

MCLEAN, Va., Sept. 30, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- Appian (Nasdaq: APPN) today announced that Virginia Business has selected Susan Charnaux, Chief People Officer at Appian, as a 2026 Women in Leadership Awards recipient.



The Women in Leadership Awards celebrate top women executives for their professional accomplishments, civic engagement, mentorship, and advancement. The honorees have consistently demonstrated remarkable leadership and integrity while making an impact in their communities and Virginia.

Selected by the Virginia Business leadership team, the full list of winners is published in the October issue of Virginia Business and online at [VirginiaBusiness.com](https://www.virginiabusiness.com).

"The 2026 Women in Leadership honorees are exemplary executives who are making significant contributions to their organizations and communities as trailblazing mentors who are encouraging future generations of professional women to pursue their own paths and ambitions," said Richard Foster, associate publisher and editor of Virginia Business. "We at Virginia Business are pleased to recognize these transformational leaders."

"I am honored to be recognized alongside women whose leadership is strengthening the Commonwealth of Virginia," said Charnaux. "At Appian, we believe top talent is essential to our business growth, and our Virginia headquarters has been the right place for us to find that talent. We are committed to investing in our people at every stage of their careers and creating an environment where they solve hard problems, do impactful work, and take ownership of their growth from day one."

Charnaux brings more than 20 years of experience in professional services to her role as Appian's Chief People Officer. A member of the executive leadership team, she oversees talent acquisition, learning and development, and human resources, connecting Appian's culture and talent strategy to business growth. Her leadership has focused on strengthening early-career hiring, onboarding, employee development, and preparing Appian's workforce to succeed in an AI-enabled workplace.

In recognition of the Women in Leadership honorees, Virginia Business will host an awards banquet on October 6 at the Science Museum of Virginia's Dewey Gottwald Center in Richmond. For more information about the event, visit [virginiabusiness.com/event/womeninleadership](https://www.virginiabusiness.com/event/womeninleadership).

About Appian

Appian provides AI automation for the most important business processes at the world's largest organizations.

On the Appian Platform, customers build AI-powered processes that accelerate work, reduce cost, and manage risk. Our platform is known for its unique power, reliability, and scale. We've been automating processes for more than 25 years and have proven expertise in enterprise operations. For more information, visit [appian.com](https://www.appian.com). [Nasdaq: APPN]

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About Virginia Business

Virginia Business is the only publication in Virginia dedicated to covering economic activity in every sector and region of the commonwealth. The magazine has established a reputation as a must-read for those who want to stay abreast of commercial events in Virginia and attracts a diverse group of readers, including business leaders who hold managerial and financial positions and fill a host of C-suite positions. Virginia Business hosts several annual events to recognize excellence and provide leadership opportunities and facilitates thoughtful discussion with market leaders through its webinar series. Its Digital Marketing Solutions helps customers with social media, search engine marketing and optimization, retargeting, email marketing and more. Virginia Business is part of BridgeTower Media, the authoritative voice for insights and marketing solutions across 40+ brands in five key sectors across the United States. For more information, visit [VirginiaBusiness.com](https://www.VirginiaBusiness.com).

2026 Women in Leadership Awards

Shaza Andersen*, *Trustar Bank*
Nupur Sidhu Bal*, *Bowen Ten Long Nupar*
Melissa Ball, *Ball Office Products*
Terry Banez, *Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce*
Kanama Bivins, *Norfolk Airport Authority*
Sage Bolte*, *Inova Health Foundation*
Katy Brown, *Barter Theatre*
Diane Cafritz, *CarMax*
Chris Chandler, *AdvantaStaff*
Susan Charnaux, *Appian*
Ellen Cole, *SI - Special Investigations Limited Company*
Robin Cooke, *TowneBank*
Jenni Lee Crocker, *Alliant Insurance*
Kim Davis*, *Friends of Southwest Virginia*
Kimmy Duong, *Kimmy Duong Foundation*
Rebecca Fallen, *Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield*
Stephanie T. Ford, *Warren Whitney*
Susan Frank, *UDig*
Natalie Grubbs, *Atlantic Union Bank*
Stephanie Heinatz, *Consociate Media*
Kellea W. Hogan, *Framatome*
Marsha K. Hudgins, *Hudgins Contracting*
Angela Inge, *Capital Square*
Laura K. Ipsen*, *Ellucian*
Amanda Jarratt, *City of Virginia Beach*
Jane Kamensky, *Monticello/The Thomas Jefferson Foundation*
Tracy Keller, *Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast*
Ha Koehler, *On Point Communications*
Stephanie Landrum, *Alexandria Economic Development Partnership*
Jennifer S. Lehman*, *Hantzmon Weibel*
Wendy Lewis, *KPMG*
Angie Loew, *Breeden Construction*
Candice McAuliffe, *Sentara Health*
Katherine McGrady, *CNA*
Dr. Thuy-Anh Melvin*, *Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group | Kaiser Permanente*
Jennifer Montague, *Columbia Gas of Virginia*
Tammy Neale*, *Virginia Housing*
Nicole Newsome*, *Qantm Creative*
Dolly Oberoi*, *C2 Technologies*
Shannon O. Pierce*, *Virginia Natural Gas*
Susan Pilato*, *PC&A Business Environments*
Joy Polefrone, *Alliance for Building Better Medicine*
Linda Rabbitt*, *Rand Construction*
Kelsey Robertson, *TECHnista*
Maria Tedesco*, *Atlantic Union Bank*
Olivia Trivisani Bowker, *Amivero*
Stela Turelli, *Busch Vacuum Solutions/Busch LLC*
Cathy Underwood*, *Branch*
Julia Vaughn, *Zeiders Enterprises*
Amber Vegas, *AmeriTribe*
Jennifer Wakefield*, *Greater Richmond Partnership*
Karen A. Wilson, *Bank of America*

*Denotes multiyear winner



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