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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Feeding America Southwest Virginia
President/CEO speaks on Governors Food and
Farm Partnership Panel, Introduces VA
First Lady**

SALEM, Va. (December 18) - Feeding America Southwest Virginia President and CEO Pamela Irvine recently traveled to Washington, DC, to participate in a panel discussion on public-private partnerships to reduce hunger and waste. The panel was part of a larger congressional event co-hosted by Feeding America national and the Governors Food and Farm Partnership, titled "What Works to Address Hunger."

The panel included an in-depth discussion of what states, companies and nonprofits are currently doing in regards to public-private partnerships and how those activities are replicable in other states. Irvine addressed, in particular, Virginia's produce donation tax credit for farmers and other food access innovations. Other panel participants included Kim Fortunato of the Campbell Foundation, Bernadette Downey of Share Our Strength, and Drew Felz of General Mills.

"Public-private partnerships are a rapidly-growing part of how we feed people," said Irvine. "I'm glad I was able to share what we've learned with my colleagues from other states and other parts of the food system."

Irvine was also asked to introduce Virginia's First Lady, Dorothy McAuliffe, who made the keynote address at the event. Mrs. McAuliffe discussed how critical partnerships and programs at the state level that can bring additional resources to anti-hunger organizations.

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Feeding America Southwest Virginia was founded locally in 1981 and proudly commemorates 36 years of fighting hunger and changing lives through community partnerships. For the last three and a half decades, the Food Bank's ultimate mission has remained the same: eliminate hunger in the region. The primary function of the Food Bank is to secure and distribute large quantities of food for Southwest Virginia's hungry. Approximately \$26.5 million worth of food and grocery related products are channeled annually through a network of more than 330 partner feeding programs in our 26-county, 9-city region that provide food or meals to those in need. The local Food Bank is an affiliate member of Feeding America. Visit www.faswva.org for more information or like us on Facebook.