Virginia recently graduated from the CLA at Drew University and began the initial planning of the BAA in the summer of 2020. Virginia majored in Sociology and has continued her studies in the discipline in the Sociology Ph.D. program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Virginia is committed to amplifying the voices of individuals that come from marginalized communities. Virginia has dedicated the last four years to research and civic engagement that benefits the Black community.

Since beginning her Ph.D. program, Virginia has been researching maternal mortality in the U.S. Over the next two years, she will complete coursework and exams to prepare for her first pilot study in this field. She will interview and observe birthing individuals who decide to complete their birthing journey at birth centers and/or with the primary assistance of midwives and doulas. The purpose of this research is to highlight the necessity of normalizing safe and independent birth outside of medical institutions such as hospitals.

Virginia believes her participation in the BAA will guide those at Drew University who believe Black and Brown members of the community deserve equitable treatment.