



Theresa Kohler

Inducted May 18, 2025

Paulding High School		1992
Capital University	B.A.	1996
University of Delaware	M.P.A.	2000



Theresa Kohler -- Paulding High School Class of 1992

Theresa Kohler's interest in government led her to a career in public service at the state and Federal level, where she is currently a member of the Federal Senior Executive Service (SES). The SES is the corps of Federal senior leaders serving in key positions just below agency political leadership. These career civil servants, which make up 0.4% of the 2.2 million federal workers, are responsible for oversight of significant federal programs and functions.

Ms. Kohler currently serves as the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Chief Financial Officer, where she oversees a \$20 billion organization that provides support to over 4,000 recipients of transit grants across the United States. Throughout her career, she has managed large mission support operations, including budget, finance, facilities management, human resources, labor relations, performance management and strategic planning. Prior to joining FTA, she held a variety of positions in financial administration and management with the Bureau of Fiscal Service at the Department of Treasury, the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Health & Human Services, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Transportation, where she began her federal career as a Presidential Management Fellow. She is the recipient of several awards, including the 2023 Service to America Management Excellence Award as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Implementation Team and the 2024 Secretary of Transportation Gold Medal.

Ms. Kohler credits her high school teachers, including Lisa Brown, Jean Myers, Amy Graham, and Ellie Barnes for encouraging her to think bigger and challenging her to take on tough assignments. This encouragement led her to seek an internship when she started college in the office of State Representative Lynn Wachtmann. After completing her undergraduate degree, she landed a job at the Ohio Department of Taxation before leaving to complete graduate work at the University of Delaware. In Delaware, she obtained fellowships with the Delaware General Assembly and the Delaware State Budget office before joining Federal service in 2000.

In her free time, Ms. Kohler volunteers with her local English as a Second Language Program and is active in her church and community association. You can often find her biking, hiking and enjoying concerts and the many events in the nation's capital.

Ms. Kohler is a doctoral candidate in Public Policy and Public Administration at Virginia Tech. She received a master's in Public Administration from the University of Delaware and a bachelor's degree in Political Science/History from Capital University. She resides in Vienna, Virginia with her husband, daughter, and dog. She is the daughter of John and Darlene Kohler of Paulding.