

Lea Anne Foster

VICE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS



Lea Anne Foster is vice president for communications at the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the nation's largest industrial trade association. She is responsible for media strategy and communications to promote the NAM's policy agenda.

Prior to joining the NAM in 2011, Ms. Foster was the federal affairs director for the state of Georgia. She worked with Congress and the Executive Branch on issues relevant to Georgia, including trade promotion, regulatory policy, economic development and health care, among others. She also advised Governor Sonny Perdue and his Cabinet on federal advocacy.

Ms. Foster formerly served as assistant to Vice President Dick Cheney, where she managed strategic messaging to domestic and international audiences. She counseled Vice President Cheney on communications and traveled with him throughout the United States and abroad to promote the Administration's policies and legislative agenda.

Before joining the Bush/Cheney White House staff in 2005, Ms. Foster was the communications director for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) within the Department of Homeland Security. In that role, she oversaw the public affairs efforts for presidentially declared disasters including Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne.

Prior to her work at FEMA, Ms. Foster served as the press secretary for the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) during the 2001-2002 election cycle. During her tenure at the NRCC, the Committee defied the historical trend by winning congressional seats to increase the party's majority. Her other work on Capitol Hill included serving as a legislative aide to the late Senator Paul Coverdell. She worked on Senator Coverdell's re-election campaign in 1998 as the deputy communications director before relocating to Washington, D.C., to serve on his Senate staff.

Ms. Foster received a bachelor's degree in English and communication arts from Georgia Southern University. She serves on the Alumni Board of her alma mater, and was presented with the Young Alumnus Award in 2006.

She and her husband live in Alexandria, Va., with their daughter. Ms. Foster is active in the community, volunteering with the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless and other local non-profits. She is also serves on a number of committees at her church.