Deanna Ballard is a native North Carolinian who has built a career based on dedicated service to others and a firm foundation in conservative values. She currently serves as director of public policy for Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization headquartered in Boone. She advises and assists senior leadership and other stakeholders in determining effective communication and public policy strategies to move the organization forward in accordance with their core missions.

As a member of the North Carolina State Senate, Ballard has worked diligently to represent her constituents while serving as a member of the Committees on Education/Higher Education Appropriations, Education/ Higher Education, Health Care, State and Local Government, and Transportation.

Throughout her career, she has remained committed to the conservative principles that defined her childhood in North Carolina. As the daughter of a public school teacher and a logger in a family-owned business, she gained an appreciation for hard work, family values, and the opportunities that can only come from free enterprise. She is deeply engaged with small business owners and has extensive knowledge of the challenges they encounter.

Ballard has a degree in business from Belmont University and served as an advisory board member for Project GOPINK! and SHEPAC. She was also a Fellow for the E.A. Morris Fellowship for Emerging Leaders and is a current member of the distinguished AEI Leadership Network and State Legislative Leaders Foundation – Emerging Leaders Program. She was recently honored as one of MAVPAC's "Future 40." In her free time, Ballard serves on the worship team at her church, runs half marathons, and loves exploring new places and hiking along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Her favorite activities are those that allow her the opportunity to equip others to reach their full potential.