



# Women Education Leaders in Virginia

Fall 2018



September 2018 Vol. 8, Issue 2

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Address:  
WELV, PO Box 169  
Gordonsville, VA  
22942  
[www.welv.org](http://www.welv.org)

Facebook:  
"WELV Virginia"  
Twitter:  
@WELV\_VA  
Linked In:  
"Women Education  
Leaders in Virginia"  
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## 20TH ANNUAL WELV CONFERENCE

### Multiplying the Effect of Remarkable Leaders "Celebrating WELV and Twenty Years"

**March 14 - 15, 2019 – Charlottesville, VA**

The 20th Annual WELV Conference will bring education leaders to Charlottesville for two days of dynamic presentations, in-depth dialogue, networking and celebration.

The modest registration fee covers parking, breakfast and lunch each day, an evening reception on the first day, copies of all conference resource material—including a copy of Timeless Learning: How Imagination, Observation and Zero-Based Thinking Change Schools, and membership in WELV through March 31, 2019.

### MEET YOUR CONFERENCE PRESENTER

The Institute Presenter for this year's conference is Dr. Pam Moran, former Superintendent of the Albemarle County Public Schools, Executive Director of Virginia School Consortium for Learning and former President of WELV.

Timeless Learning: How Imagination, Observation, and Zero-Based Thinking Change Schools

### Reinvent public schools with proven, innovative practices

"Our homes, communities, and the world itself need the natural assets our children bring with them as learners, and which they often lose over time on the assembly line that pervades most of the public education system today. We see no actions as more important in school than developing, supporting, and reinforcing children's sense of agency, the value of their voices, and their potential to influence their own communities. In *Timeless Learning* Pam Moran, along with co-authors Chief Technology Officer Ira Socol and Lab Schools Principal Chad Ratliff, demonstrate how you can implement innovative practices that have shown remarkable success."



- Discover the power of project-based and student-designed learning
- Find out what "maker learning" entails
- Launch connected and interactive digital learning
- Benefit from the authors' "opening up learning" space and time

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

What an exciting time of year - summer is ending, school is beginning. One of the things I love most about being an educator is the opportunity to begin again each year. Who among us hasn't needed to wipe the slate clean and make a fresh start? I hope that as you begin a new adventure - in the same school, with a change in assignment, in a new division, beginning a new career - that you find a way to capture and store the joy and excitement of the beginning of the journey. Trust me you will need to tap into that "juice" in a few months.

WELV was fortunate to have author Shelley Burgess, **Lead Like a Pirate**, as our keynote speaker at our annual conference. Shelley challenged each of us to reflect on key principles of leadership - passion, immersion, rapport, ask & analyze, transformation, and enthusiasm. I have taken time this summer to re-read her book in preparation for a new season. I am reminded that strong leadership has many facets including FUN!

It is my hope that you too will **Lead Like a Pirate** this year. If you have the book - read it; give it to someone else for them to read; or better yet, start a book club and discuss it with colleagues. WELV wants to support you, offer you great resources, mentor you, lift you up, and connect you with other motivated, inspirational women.

*"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships were built for." John A. Shedd*

Climb aboard the WELV ship, join our ranks and we will travel the seas together - weather storms, sail smooth seas and enjoy adventures.

## **WELV "Retirees:" The Perspective of Leaders who Continuously Learn, Lift and Serve**

by: Shannon Beasley

Merle Herndon, Linda Reviea, and Margaret Blackmon are all long time WELV leaders, and all three are retirees from superintendent seats and from their service as leaders in education. Most notably, however, is not their official retirement stations, but their hearts to embody characteristics of servant leadership in their everyday lives. All three regularly pour into prospective teachers, principals, superintendents, and other educators, providing advice and support to help women become successful leaders in education. All three are passionate women who feel very strongly about servant leadership. Linda Reviea notes that she "always wanted to help others" and feels strongly that "no matter the position that a woman is in, that she leads with enthusiasm and compassion where she is." Margaret notes that "it is critical to mentor to everyone, including support staff, to realize the positions that they can achieve." Merle, feels that it's "critical for young people to understand the importance of choosing the career path that they take so that they consider what goals they have for their retirement." "Retirement," she notes, "first I really recommend it."

In fact, Merle, planned for her retirement long before it began. She kept a running list of all of the things that she wanted to do for her community, with her friends, with her family, her husband and for herself. She has traveled extensively, and she just recently accomplished one item on her list, which was to visit all seven continents. Linda, while she did not have the same travel agenda, did move to a new community, and now has been extensively remodeling a home while working part time as a bookkeeper for her local church. Margaret, like Merle and Linda, has been traveling back and forth to her second home in Georgia for years, and she also traveled extensively to places like the Congo to help with various educational missions. Additionally, she has been canvassing for various politicians who advocate for education.

All three women have an enduring commitment to WELV and to seeing that mentoring is at the heart of our mission. Linda summed up the sentiment of all three women and their continued commitment: "Do you want to make a difference? Then go invest in people."

# WELV Board Announces Two New Awards

**WELV Mentor Award** This award is presented to an educational leader who served or serves as an inspirational mentor to women leaders and has consistently supported women for advancement throughout his/her career.

## Criteria for Consideration

- He/She has mentored multiple women who with the assistance of the mentorship became strong, successful educational leaders.
- He/She consistently seeks ways to encourage women to take that next step or face with grace the next challenge.
- He/She is recognized in Virginia as a mentor and there is evidence that he/she has taken positive steps to insure gender equity in educational leadership.

**Regional Woman Leader of the Year** This award is given to a woman leader in each of the eight Superintendents' Regions. The recipient in each region is a leader who has led with impact on student learning and has promoted with passion and actions the mission of WELV. She

motivates those around her to be the best they can be. She models generosity of spirit and encourages others to become involved with WELV

## Criteria for Consideration

- She is recognized as a bold and effective leader by colleagues and those she serves.
- She is results oriented.
- She exhibits admirable qualities of leadership and keeps "what is best for children" at the center of decisions and actions.
- She exemplifies the spirit of WELV and has shared the inspiration of WELV with others in the region.
- She has taken actions to create a strong WELV network for leaders in the regions

**Nomination Procedures:** *The nominator is to submit (1) a letter of nomination, referring specifically to stated criteria and citing examples, (2) nominee's resume, and (3) two additional letters of recommendation from individuals who know the nominee well and can speak to his/her accomplishments.*

*These materials are to be submitted electronically to Executive Director ([afogliani@aol.com](mailto:afogliani@aol.com)) by February 3.*

**Selection Procedures:** *The Nominations Committee of the WELV Board will review completed nomination packets and make recommendations, based on stated criteria, to the full WELV Board. The Board will make final decisions on the awards to be made at the upcoming Annual Conference.*

**For information on all of the WELV Award Categories, please go to [http://www.welv.org/index.php/home/learn\\_more/awards](http://www.welv.org/index.php/home/learn_more/awards)**

# WELV WELCOMES NEW SUPERINTENDENTS

**As the 2018-19 school year begins, nine Virginia school divisions are led by recently appointed bold, confident women educators. WELV reaches out to offer support and encouragement.**



**Appomattox County  
Annette Bennett**



**Brunswick County  
Kristy Somerville-Midgett**



**Franklin City-  
Tamara Sterling**



**Greensville County-Emporia  
Kim Evans**



**Henrico County  
Amy Cashwell**



**Lynchburg City  
Crystal Edwards**



**Nelson County  
Martha Eagle**



**Madison County  
Anna Ruth Graham**



**Buckingham County  
Daisy Hicks**

# WELV OUTREACH

## Women Education Leaders in Virginia Region 7 Conference

**Presence and Mindsets for Women Leaders of Today  
“Bringing Your Boldest Self to Your Biggest Challenges”**



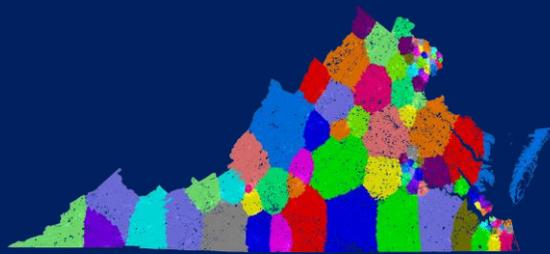
October 19, 2018

University of Virginia's College at Wise

For Registration Information, visit [www.welv.org](http://www.welv.org)

## WELV AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Creating a Network of Women Leaders in Virginia



Are you interested in becoming more involved with WELV? Would you like to serve as a WELV Ambassador to your school division? If the answer is “YES”, please email the Executive Director, Elaine Fogliani [afoqliani@aol.com](mailto:afoqliani@aol.com)

To find out more about the role of a WELV Ambassador, please visit [http://www.welv.org/index.php/home/single\\_entry/ambassadors-program](http://www.welv.org/index.php/home/single_entry/ambassadors-program)

## **Leading and Lifting from the VDOE; Gena Keller's Journey is that of a WELV Superstar**

by: Shannon Beasley

Gena Keller has spent the past 39 years in public education. Her path began as SPED and Alternative Education teacher, then as a home-school coordinator, counselor, an assistant principal, a principal, an Assistant Superintendent, a Superintendent, the Coordinator of Professional Learning and the Project Lead of Leadership Initiatives and now the Interim Acting Chief Academic Officer for the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). With such an impressive career path, Gena humbly notes, that she has never uttered the words “career path” at all. She never set her sights on a “career path,” what she did set her sights on was how to step in the gaps along the way and lead to influence opportunities for children to give them the foundation that they deserve in order to thrive —every.single.one.

Stepping in the gaps, while being supported by women who recognized her leadership skills and lifted her up, in addition to her faith and family support, Gena realized the magnitude of her responsibility to also empower others to lead and impact the lives of children. In her positions at VDOE, Gena has strengthened partnerships between VDOE and influential groups such as VaSCL, VASCD, VASSP, VAESP, VASS, Learning Forward, SURN, and most relevantly, with WELV. In connecting with these educational organizations, Gena has increased communication to superintendents of noteworthy professional learning that is aligned with statewide initiatives; most recently focusing on the Profile of a Virginia Graduate. Gena is excited about continuing to work closely with SURN and William and Mary to define the competencies, skill sets and dispositions associated with a Profile of a Virginia Educator and Profile of a Virginia Educational Leader – each integral to operationalizing the Profile of a Virginia Graduate.

Gena provides the following advice to aspiring leaders: “always be mindful that every decision made impacts children, staff and community members—never forget the degree of responsibility you have to do what’s right for children—no matter what.”

### **Why WELV?** by: Beth Baptist

The answer to this question could be different for each member or prospective member. Each female leader or aspiring leader possesses various skills and talents and may need differing supports. WELV can meet the support needs of all women in education through its members and other resources. I have been a member of WELV since about 2005 and joined primarily because of friends who were members. At first, I think the primary mission of WELV was for its members to become superintendents. I soon learned the superintendency is indeed a goal for some women but that doesn't need to be the goal for a WELV member. As the name implies, this organization is created for all women who are educational leaders in Virginia. Who does this include? To name a few and this may not be an exhaustive list: teachers, counselors, specialists, school-based administrators, central office leaders, higher educational faculty and administrators. Having this diverse membership is one great answer for “Why WELV”. Women can network and learn from women at all levels of education. Another answer to “Why WELV” is the fantastic professional learning opportunities offered as our annual conference, regional meetings, collaboration with other educational organizations for leaning activities. Our conference in March is a wonderful opportunity to visit and network with leaders at all levels of organizations and from women who have been successful in their endeavors. A third possible answer to “Why WELV” is the opportunity to attain a leadership role in the organization and work closely with women in your area to help strength and grow the statewide group. We offer roles as ambassadors and regional members of the Board as well as the Officers. You can start in a role closer to home and work your way up to President. I hope I have piqued your interest in “Why WELV”. This is a special group of women who care about each other and the success of its members. We cheer when women get promotions and help with interviewing, resumes, etc. when members are applying. As I said, I have been a member for approximately 13 years. I have treasured each year and hope to continue for many years to come.

## WELV TAX-DEDUCTIBLE LEVELS OF GIVING

A great way to support WELV and demonstrate your commitment to the development of women education leaders in Virginia is to make a tax-deductible contribution. Contribute as a **Friend of WELV** (up to \$50), a **Collaborator with WELV** (\$51 - \$100) or a **Leader for WELV** (\$101 and up). Contact [Elaine Fogliani](#) for more information.

## 2019 CONFERENCE INFORMATION

### REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT INFORMATION

The conference registration fee covers parking, buffet breakfast and luncheon, evening reception on Thursday, and all conference resource materials.

You must be a member of WELV to participate in the WELV 2019 Annual Conference.

Your registration fee for the conference includes a year's membership in WELV, a savings of \$40 (standard membership) or \$25 (retired member or full-time graduate student). After completing your registration ONLINE on the WELV website, you will be invoiced.

The Registration Fee is non-refundable. If you are unable to attend the conference, please send someone in your place and notify Judy Lam ([womenedleadersva@gmail.com](mailto:womenedleadersva@gmail.com)).

#### REGISTRATION FEES FOR EDUCATORS & GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

|                          |       |                               |
|--------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| Thursday (March 15) ONLY | \$190 | \$210 after February 10, 2019 |
| Friday (March 16) ONLY   | \$140 | \$160 after February 10, 2019 |
| BOTH DAYS                | \$270 | \$310 after February 10, 2019 |

**\*REGISTRATION OPEN SOON\***

**CHECK [www.welv.org](http://www.welv.org) for more information!**

### EARLY BIRD

### DISCOUNT

**REGISTER FOR  
CONFERENCE BY  
FEBRUARY 10 and you will  
receive discount!**

### HOTEL INFORMATION

THE HOLIDAY INN, 1901  
Emmet Street

Charlottesville, VA 22901,  
(434) 977-7700

Ask for Group Rate:  
WELV, Room Rate: \$115

RESERVATION  
DEADLINE:

February 10, 2019

*We hope to see you there!*