



# Women Education Leaders in Virginia

Fall 2014



September, 2014 Vol. 4, Issue 2

## WELV Board of Directors:

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In affiliation with



and



## CELEBRATING 16 YEARS: REMEMBERING AND HONORING TWO FOUNDING LEADERS OF WELV



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***Empowering women leaders ... 16 years strong...  
Yes, WELV celebrates its 16<sup>th</sup> birthday this year!***

In tandem with this celebration, WELV honors a founding member, Donna Plasket, who is retiring from the faculty at the University of Virginia to join her husband, David Breneman, as he leaves the University to take the helm as president and chief executive officer of The Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach, Florida. After more than 40 years in academia, David is set to begin a new phase of his career. From 1995 to 2007, he served as dean of the University's Curry School of Education. He went on to become the founding director of the public policy program at the Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, a position he relinquished in 2009.

Donna Plasket served as co-chair of the first annual conference with fellow faculty member Deborah Verstegen. The conference reached out to women in educational leadership throughout Virginia. The successful event was held on November 13, 1998 at the Boar's Head Inn in Charlottesville. Emerging from the synergy of the conference, a group of women leaders, Deborah and Donna among them, established the Women Education Leaders in Virginia (WELV). The idea was to focus on and support the women in leadership, not just educational issues, as other state and national associations were providing for that need.

David Breneman, as Dean of Curry, embraced the idea of WELV. He offered support, enabled operating and conference funds to be incorporated into the Curry financial structure, and allowed for personnel support and a financial cushion if needed (e.g., when bills needed to be paid before conference revenue had been collected). In addition, he provided the necessary initial subsidy to sustain the early organization and the establishment of WELV. David also attended each conference and offered welcoming remarks at all events requested.

Donna continued to serve on the conference committee and later the board as the organization developed, and then twice served as WELV president. While Donna was conductor of the Virginia Women's Chorus, she brought the singers to perform at the conferences and continued to arrange for performances, even after she handed over the baton. Donna and David also often hosted WELV receptions in their Pavilion I home on the campus of The University of Virginia.

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Turning vision into reality – that is where the real work begins!  
As women leaders in the realm of education, we must deepen our skills by networking and learning together in order to make “dreams become reality” for our children!

WELV offers women an opportunity to learn from each other and to grow. By attending the Annual Conference this spring or by joining us as an *Ambassador*, you can become part of one of the most energized groups of education leaders across the Commonwealth. It's an exciting time to be an educator and we need you!

Please take time to ask questions and become more knowledgeable about the opportunities associated with being a WELV member.

Your bright brain, your passion for learning and your deep commitment to public education are important to the transformation that is needed in our school systems. Thank you for considering joining us as we strengthen our influence on the future of the educational system in Virginia.



**Gena Keller**  
**WELV President**

## SAVE THE DATE

### 2015 WELV ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**“A CALL TO BE BOLD: WOMEN LEADING CHANGE”**

**MARCH 19 – MARCH 20, 2015**

**CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA**

**WELV IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE INSTITUTE**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

**DR. PAM ROBBINS**



Pam Robbins consults internationally on brain research, quality teaching, emotional intelligence, brain-compatible training, instructional strategies for block scheduling, peer collaboration, coaching, mentoring, leadership skills, developing professional learning communities, change, personality styles, supervision, and presentation skills. She was formerly director of training for the California School Leadership Academy, where she participated in the conceptualization, development, and delivery of selected leadership training models. Her work includes the creation and implementation of national curriculum seminars and training for numerous agencies. Her books include *Learning from Lincoln: Leadership Practices for School* and *The New Principal's Fieldbook: Strategies for Success* with coauthor Harvey Alvy. She participated in the development of three videotapes produced by ASCD: 'Staff Development for School Improvement,' 'Skills for the Instructional Decision Maker,' and 'Opening Doors.' Recent publications include a Professional Inquiry Kit on Emotional Intelligence. Pam's educational background includes a bachelor's degree in English from the University of California, a master's degree in education from California State University, Sacramento, and a doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley. Her doctoral studies were in organizational development and change.

# WELV AMBASSADORS

## WELV INTRODUCES A NEW PROGRAM FOR PROMOTING WELV

**Would YOU like to become more involved in WELV?**

### ***BECOME AN AMBASSADOR!***

**What does an Ambassador Do?**

- 1. Disseminate information from our Regional Representatives to colleagues in their building, department, and/or region.**
  - 2. Host book studies and “chat and chew” sessions about timely topics related to women in leadership positions.**
  - 3. Advocate for your peers to join WELV so they can experience our networking and professional and personal learning opportunities.**
  - 4. Create opportunities for women to collaborate and share success stories.**
  - 5. Seek information on cutting edge instructional delivery methodology and share it with others.**
  - 6. Offer an “informal survey” to determine what your colleagues need and want from WELV.**
  - 7. Visibly promote WELV through social media outlets.**
  - 8. Connect regularly with your Regional Rep to share your insights, your findings, and your suggestions related to the services that WELV provides.**
  - 9. Be an approachable and passionate advocate for women in leadership roles.**
- And, last but not least...**
- 10. Make a commitment to spend face-to-face time with women new to our professional and offer your support!**

**How can YOU become a WELV Ambassador?**

**Email your WELV Regional Representative (see list below) and the WELV Executive Director ([afogliani@aol.com](mailto:afogliani@aol.com)).**

Region 1: Regina Turner, Staff Development Instructor, Henrico County Schools - [Rfturner@henrico.k12.va.us](mailto:Rfturner@henrico.k12.va.us)

Region 2: Lee-Ann O’Dell, Program Director, University of Virginia, School of Cont. & Professional Studies - [lo4n@virginia.edu](mailto:lo4n@virginia.edu)

Region 3: Sheri Almond, Principal, Cople Elementary School, Westmoreland County Schools - [almonds1@wmlcps.org](mailto:almonds1@wmlcps.org)

Region 4: Jennifer Cavanaugh, Assistant Principal, Broad Run High School, Loudoun County Schools - [jennifer.cavanaugh@loudoun.k12.va.us](mailto:jennifer.cavanaugh@loudoun.k12.va.us)

Region 5: Linda Reviea, Superintendent, Staunton City Schools - [lreviea@staunton.k12.va.us](mailto:lreviea@staunton.k12.va.us)

Region 6: Brenda Blackburn, Superintendent, Montgomery County Schools - [brendablackburn@mcps.org](mailto:brendablackburn@mcps.org)

Region 7: Rebecca Harrison, Outreach/Lecturer University of Virginia, Southwest Center - [rsh6w@virginia.edu](mailto:rsh6w@virginia.edu)

Region 8: Merle Herndon, Superintendent, Halifax County Schools - [mherndon@halifax.k12.va.us](mailto:mherndon@halifax.k12.va.us)

**Meet the First Ambassador for WELV:**

**Taneshia H. Rachal, Ed.D.**



Dr. Taneshia H. Rachal began her career in education after graduating from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Master of Teaching degree. She also holds a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Mary Washington and recently earned her Ed.D in Educational Leadership from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Rachal has worked in the field of education for seventeen years. She taught English in two different high schools and a maximum security jail for boys. Dr. Rachal served as a high school Assistant Principal, and just started her first year as Principal of James Monroe High School in Fredericksburg, VA.

As a life-long educator, her true passion lies in providing educational reform for diverse student populations, critically examining curriculum, teaching, and learning processes, and increasing achievement and equity in schools.

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**SAVE THE DATE AND REGISTER NOW!**

## **SIXTH LYNCHBURG REGIONAL WELV FORUM**

### **“INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY”**

The **Sixth Annual Lynchburg Regional WELV Forum** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>**, from **8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** in the **Alice Ashley Jack Room of Smith Hall at Randolph College.**

The forum will provide a networking and professional development opportunity for educators in our region.

Highlights of the event include the following:

- Keynote speaker **Delegate Jennifer McClellan** represents the 71st district which includes parts of the city of Richmond and Henrico County. She is also the Minority Caucus Vice Chair of Outreach.
- Breakout Sessions featuring two speakers:
  - 1) **Evainna W. Ross**, Executive Director and Founder of the nonprofit- The Sparrow’s Nest, Inc. located in Greensboro, NC, which addresses the educational, social and financial disparities of youth from government assisted housing, high crime areas and underperforming schools.
  - 2) **Dr. Allison Jordan**, assistant principal at William Campbell Combined High School, who recently completed her doctorate degree and dissertation entitled *Beneath the Glass Ceiling: What Causes Some Qualified Female Educators to Remain in the Classroom While Others Obtain Leadership Roles?*
- **“The Urban Classroom: What Have I Done?”** Panel discussion featuring **Dr. Tracy Richardson**, principal EC Glass High School; **Kelsey Cline**, teacher, Petersburg, VA; and **Rachel Reid**, teacher, Raleigh, NC.

Registration for the half-day event is \$30 for non-members (includes a one-year membership in WELV), \$20 for WELV members, and \$15 for college students (graduate or undergraduate) with a limit of 50 attendees.

Presented through the collaborative efforts of Lynchburg College and Randolph College, the forum will begin with a breakfast buffet and include a keynote speaker, two breakout session options, a panel discussion, and a final Question & Answer Session.

Only 50 spaces are available for the event, so please register now to reserve your space. Participants can receive continuing education credits by indicating this option on the registration form.

Thanks for your consideration of this opportunity and we hope to see you there!

**REGISTER BY OCTOBER 15 AT WELV.ORG**



**WELV ANNOUNCES  
OUR FIRST BUSINESS PARTNER**

**AMERICAN FIDELITY ASSURANCE COMPANY**

WELV is honored to have the support of American Fidelity Assurance Company as our first Business Partner. American Fidelity has more than 50 years of experience providing financial security solutions to the education community by offering Section 125 services, FSAs, HSAs, 403(b)s, COBRA administration, Healthcare Reform solutions and voluntary benefits. The company is an excellent resource for school systems in understanding the new healthcare laws.

Dixcy Kilduff is American Fidelity's school benefit specialist for Virginia. Dixcy is enthusiastic about our partnership and looking forward to supporting us this year. She will be at the next Board of Directors meeting in September to meet the directors. American Fidelity is also sponsoring a WELV dinner for the female superintendents attending the Superintendents' Professional Conference in September.

The membership will meet Dixcy at the Annual Conference in March. Thank you American Fidelity for supporting women leaders!

For more information about American Fidelity, please contact Dixcy Kilduff at [dixcy.kilduff@americanfidelity.com](mailto:dixcy.kilduff@americanfidelity.com).



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[www.americanfidelity.com](http://www.americanfidelity.com)

**WELV TAX-DEDUCTIBLE  
LEVELS OF GIVING**

**There are many ways to support WELV . . .**

**One is by making a tax-deductible contribution to WELV.**

Your contribution says that you are committed to the encouragement and development of female leaders in education in Virginia!

Friend of WELV: Up to \$50

Collaborator with WELV: \$51 to \$100

Leader for WELV: \$101 and Up

Make your contribution by December 31, 2014 to be included in the **WELV Supporters Hall of Fame** that will be published on the new WELV website and in the Annual Conference Program.



**NOW SHOWING IN A WEB BROWSER NEAR YOU!**

**THE NEW WELV WEBSITE**

- ❖ **Membership & Event Information**
- ❖ **Videos, Galleries, Calendar & Archives**
- ❖ **New Organization Offers Easy Surfing of Site**
- ❖ **Works Great on Portable Devices**
- ❖ **Online Registration for Conferences**
- ❖ **Links to WELV-Oriented Social Media**
- ❖ **Restricted-Access Private Pages for Members**

[www.welv.org](http://www.welv.org)

## TWO FOUNDING LEADERS OF WELV

(continued from page 1)

When WELV's Executive Director, Elaine Fogliani, learned of Donna's retirement and move to Florida, she commented, "I am very excited for Donna and David as they embrace the next chapter in their lives. I just can't imagine not having Donna at our conference and at the board meetings. She continues to be such a valuable resource to our organization and a true friend of WELV."

In a recent interview with Donna, we asked what she as one of the visionaries of WELV saw as the major accomplishments of the organization as we celebrate 16 years.

She outlined what she regarded as WELV's principal accomplishments:

- ❖ Carved out a niche focused on women's leadership throughout education, i.e., pre-K through higher education and across professional levels from new teachers to retired superintendents
- ❖ Done a remarkable job as a small organization of sustaining itself and becoming financially viable
- ❖ Has become known for consistently high quality conferences with outstanding networking opportunities
- ❖ Has drawn high profile educational leaders to conferences as speakers and honorees
- ❖ Built and sustained an excellent board of exceptional women working hard and enthusiastically for the organization

WELV expresses sincere gratitude for the vision and support of both Donna and David.

We wish them the very best and hope to see them when they are back in Virginia.

## WELV'S FIRST AMBASSADOR

(continued from page 3)

When asked why she wanted to become a WELV Ambassador, Taneshia responded, "I had been intrigued by the concept and overall mission of WELV since I heard about it a few years ago. The idea of bonding together as women to inspire, motivate, support, and uplift one another truly speaks to my core values as a leader. I've been anxiously awaiting a way to become more involved in WELV. This opportunity was presented and I jumped at the chance!"

Taneshia was instrumental in the formation of WELV's first affiliate group in Fredericksburg. Taneshia describes how the affiliate began:

"Everyone is always so busy that we rarely have time to really get to know one another and learn from one another. When I was an AP, I really wanted more interaction with the leaders in my division, but I was limited to the meetings that I was scheduled to attend (everyone can't be out of the building at the same time, so we would rotate). This approach only provides access to half of the women. For some reason, in my opinion it seemed like the men had bonded so well, but the ladies had not. The idea to formalize a group here in Fredericksburg came to me while I served on a retreat planning committee. The committee loved the idea and we took off from that point. We call ourselves, WILd (Women in Leadership) and we join together for professional development activities, book talks, community service/outreach, school based service, etc. We have a powerful group of 15 female leaders in Fredericksburg and I have learned so much!

As a side note I'll share that the men in our division liked the idea so much that they created their own group, MILD (Men in Leadership)."

**Region 1**  
WOMEN EDUCATION LEADERS IN VIRGINIA  
<http://www.welv.org/>

**Important DATE!**  
October 18, 2014  
3:15 – 4:15 PM  
CHESTER LIBRARY  
11800 Centre Street  
Chester, VA 23831-1781  
(804) 318-8977

Region 1 – Central Virginia			
Counties	Cities & Towns		
Charles City	Hanover	Prince George	Colonial Heights
Chesterfield	Henrico	Surry	Hopewell
Dimwiddle	New Kent	Sussex	Petersburg
Goochland	Powhatan		Richmond

For more information, contact your Region 1 Representative: Regina F. Turner, MBA – Mathematics Specialist  
804-420-2336      rturner31@gmail.com      P.O. Box 253, Hopewell, VA 23860