



Women Education Leaders in Virginia Winter 2012



January, 2013 Vol. 2, Issue 4

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President's Message

As the weather outside gets colder and we gather around the hearth for warmth, it is not too late to give yourself a great "gift" for the New Year. Mark your calendar right now for WELV's annual conference March 21-22.



WELV's January newsletter and website have timely information about this conference and other WELV activities and resources. Also, we encourage you to stay connected via e-mail. Please contact us at welv@verizon.net anytime you have questions, contributions or suggestions on ways we can improve what we do for one another.

Here's to another great year of networking, sharing ideas and improving educational outcomes for students.

Happy 2013,

Denise C. Perritt, Ph. D.

Associate Professor, School of Leadership Studies James Madison University

2013 Annual Conference Doubletree Hotel, Charlottesville VA March 21-22, 2013

On March 21-22, WELV, in collaboration with Virginia ASCD and UVA's Curry School of Education, sponsors its fourteenth annual conference for current and aspiring women education leaders. Timely and engaging keynote and concurrent sessions, as well as, discussion forums relevant to women leaders in all educational settings, are the highlights of this conference. Most importantly, women education leaders across the Commonwealth gain an opportunity to network and participate in an organization specifically created to support women leaders. We look forward to seeing you in Charlottesville on March 21-22!

Keynote speakers:

Richard and Rebecca DuFour

Visit our website at www.welv.org for additional conference information including registration and sponsorships.

SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE

Each quarterly newsletter will feature a profile of a Virginia superintendent.



Name: Dr. Merle P. Herndon

Current job title and location: Superintendent of Schools, Halifax County Public Schools

Education:

Doctor of Education, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, University of Virginia

Education Specialist, Educational Leadership, Lynchburg College

Master of Education, Reading Specialist, Lynchburg College

Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education, Averett University

WELV Member: I started with the chapter in Lynchburg when it began about five years ago.

What led you to select a career in education? My mother taught primary grades for 42 years. I was blessed to attend a small elementary school in Gladys, Virginia and had my mother as my first grade teacher. I never considered another career. My goal at a young age was to be a teacher and inspire others the way I had observed my mother making such a difference in students' lives.



What is the most rewarding part of your current job/position? The most rewarding part is seeing how decisions made can truly have a positive impact on students. When I'm placed in a decision-making position, I reflect on intended and unintended consequences of the decision. When it is a decision related to a student, I ask myself, "How would I want my own child to be treated?" I also ask, "What is the evidence to show that a student is better for being in this school division?"

Of what accomplishment are you most proud? Obtaining my doctorate from the University of Virginia and serving as principal of Linkhorne Elementary School (1993-94) in Lynchburg, Virginia when it was named a *National Blue Ribbon School* by the U.S Department of Education. The school was one of two public schools in Virginia and 276 schools nationally that received this honor that year.

What are some of your hobbies?

I enjoy traveling, reading, playing with grandchildren, and entertaining. In my spare time, I restored a Campbell County one-room school house (1905-1928). It is now called *Scott School Antiques & Tea* and serves as a lovely spot to enjoy a high tea, lunch, or dinner (by reservation only).

What is your favorite quote? To those who are given much...much is required.

GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE

Each quarterly newsletter will feature a profile of a WELV graduate student.

Name: Tammy Hanna

Current job title and location:

Assistant Principal of A.G. Wright Middle School in Stafford

Education:

- Halfway through VCU's Ed.D. program with anticipated graduation date of May, 2014.
- Gifted Education Endorsement, University of Mary Washington ('05).
- M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision from VCU ('95)
- B.S. in Education from Longwood University ('92)

How long have you been a WELV Member?

I found out about WELV through VCU's graduate program professors and attended the March 2011 Conference. I felt compelled to help and volunteered to assist, which led to being asked to be a regional representative.

What led you to select a career in education?

I cannot remember when I first knew I wanted to be a teacher, but I always gravitated toward jobs involving children during college summer breaks. Once I made the decision to be a teacher, I knew that I would eventually want to try on several hats, including school-based and, one day, central office positions.

What is the most rewarding part of your current job/position?

I love seeing my impact on students in the little things they say and do. Last year, I had a student with emotional needs who always used inappropriate language when he

relayed information to me. Every time, I would remind him that by seventh grade surely he had a better grasp of the English language and could come up with better descriptions. At the end of the year, he was in my office ranting for nearly two minutes straight with no expletives! I was so proud. I told him, "I hear what you are saying, and we will get to the issue. But, first, I have to tell you how proud I am that you spoke for two full minutes with no bad language!" He immediately smiled and his stress level dropped.

What is one of the most challenging parts of your current position and how do you overcome that challenge?

In my current role, it is easy to fall into a pattern of only contacting parents for behavioral issues or academic concerns, both of which usually have negative consequences. Recently, I have started picking students who are making efforts to improve in these areas and sending them hand-written notecards of appreciation. They are so surprised to find actual mail in their mailboxes addressed to them.

If you could be heard by legislators and parents throughout Virginia, what would you share regarding students and learning?

I would shout out that our teachers are working hard even through extensive budget cuts and increased demands. Have you seen Jamie Vollmer's video on "The Ever Increasing Burden on America's Public Schools?" If not, it will be a



reaffirming ten minutes.

What are some of your hobbies or ways you relax? I love to scrapbook and to travel—a super combination! I read when I have time, but of late, my books have been more for my VCU program and homework!

What is your favorite quote and why? "Character is what you do when no one is looking." I try to get my students to take this quote to heart and be a better person, even if no one else notices.



Next newsletter: January 2013



Check out our Events Calendar on Page 8!

Book Review!

Book Review by



Event Calendar

Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, January 25, 2012

3-4 pm

Zehmer Hall, U.Va.

Conference Planning Meeting *(If you would like to participate by phone, call 1-213-417-9250 and key in the access code 409118#.)*

Friday, January 25, 2012

4-5 pm

Zehmer Hall, U.Va.

2013 Annual Conference

March 21-22, 2013

Doubletree Hotel, Charlottesville, VA

Keynoters include Rick and Becky DuFour

National Women's Leadership Conference

October 25-26, 2013

Old Town Alexandria Hilton

A collaboration with the American Association of School Administrators

Coming in 2012-2013:

- Regional Representatives
- Past President's Council
- Online conference registration
- Resource links to division job postings
- Mentor blog

Book Review

Is there a book you would like to recommend? Send us the title and your review and we will include it in our next newsletter!