

STATEMENT OF NOMINATION

WELV

OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO EDUCATION AWARD (Posthumously)

Sarah Spruill Armstrong



Presented to Sarah's family on March 16, 2017

Dr. Sarah Armstrong received her undergraduate and master's degrees from Lynchburg College and her doctorate in education from the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education. When she retired from her 33 year career in the Virginia Public School system, she left an indelible footprint within the regional, state, and national education communities. She was a teacher and reading specialist in Amherst County before advancing into an administrative role, supervising programs for reading and gifted students for 10 years. She then moved to Nelson County Schools for eight years, where she was executive director of instruction and personnel, followed by executive director of personnel and student services.

From 1996 to 1999, she was principal of Burnley-Moran Elementary School in Charlottesville. From 1999-2007, she was assistant superintendent of Staunton City Schools.

After retiring from public school administration, she started her own business, Leading and Learning Solutions, LLC, an educational consulting firm through which she led local and national seminars, workshops, and coaching on the application of brain research to instructional improvement. She served as a keynote presenter at the 2013 WELV Conference.

She served as the Senior Director of Professional Development at UVA's School for Continuing Education. She played a pivotal role in the development of the SCOPE program (Statewide Communities of Practice in Education Excellence) at UVA where she mentored numerous principals now serving as leaders in Virginia.

She served as president of the Virginia Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development.

She was the author of two influential books on neuroscience and pedagogy, Teaching Smarter with the Brain in Focus, and A Practical Guide to Tiering Instruction in the Differentiated Classroom.

At her death, she was also the Director of the Master of Arts in Education program at Eastern Mennonite University, where she taught graduate courses related to brain research.

She is survived by her husband, Stuart C. Armstrong; their four children,