



Women Education Leaders in Virginia Winter 2012



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In affiliation with



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WELV Annual Conference – March 22-23, Charlottesville VA

Performance...at Center Stage



WELV's thirteenth annual conference is designed for current and aspiring educational leaders. The sessions will provide strong professional development opportunities as well as a forum for discussion of issues relevant to women leaders in a variety of educational settings.

You will have the opportunity to:

- Learn about the K-12 Teacher Performance Standards required by the state for 2012-13
- Hear what Congress is doing – and not doing – for America's schools and how you can impact that process
- Network with teachers, principals, superintendents, and professors from throughout the state
- Much more!

You will be inspired by:

- Lorraine Lange, Virginia's Superintendent of the Year and one of the four finalists for National Superintendent of the Year
- A panel of women leaders sharing their stories and best advice
- Belle Wheelan, President of the SACS Commission on Colleges and Virginia's former Secretary of Education
- Deborah Pettit, Louisa County Superintendent, who dealt with the earthquake just as school was starting in August
- Pam Moran, President of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents and Albemarle County Superintendent

Whether you are a teacher or administrator, the Women Education Leaders want you to join us at this March 22-23 conference designed specifically for you!

The conference registration form is available at www.welv.org. We look forward to your participation!

Margaret Blackmon, Executive Director
margaretblackmon@gmail.com

President's Message

Dear WELV Members,

I hope 2012 is off to a fine start for each of you, and you are planning to join us for the regional WELV Conference at Randolph College on March 3rd as well as the annual conference on March 22-23 in Charlottesville. Both of these events provide opportunities to network with area educators and gain first-hand information about the trends and issues facing educators today.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the WELV Board, Executive Director, and Administrative Coordinator for their support during the past year. I look forward to transitioning leadership to JMU's Denise Perritt at the annual conference in March and know WELV's potential for success is unlimited when we all work together.

Best wishes,

Paula C. Lichiello
WELV President

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Dr. Lorraine Lange, Superintendent of Roanoke County, has been named one of four finalists in the National Superintendents of the Year Program by the American Association of School Administrators.

AASA will announce the 2012 National Superintendent of the Year on Feb. 16, 2012, at the National Conference on Education in Houston, Texas.

Dr. Lange was named Virginia Superintendent of the Year in May of 2011 and is the former President of the Virginia ASCD. Dr. Lange will be speaking at the WELV annual conference in Charlottesville on March 23rd at the Doubletree Hotel.

LYNCHBURG REGIONAL FORUM

Please plan to join us on **Saturday, March 3rd** for the **Third Annual Lynchburg Regional WELV Forum at Randolph College** from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This year's forum will feature Anne O'Toole, a retired school principal from Robius Elementary, discussing "*Leading and Creating Change in Schools*," along with Consuella Woods, a retired administrator and assistant professor at Randolph College, who will be presenting an interactive session on "*Diversity and Leadership*." Registration is limited to 50 participants, so please register early! Additional information is available on our website at www.welv.org.

WELV Mentoring Program – Laurie McCullough

As you know, WELV is a network of women leaders in education across Virginia, dedicated to supporting each other in our leadership journeys and helping each other meet our leadership goals, whatever those may be. We have a network of great women that are here to support and mentor you.

If you want to participate, I would ask you to send me an e-mail in which you (1) briefly introduce yourself including your current position and school and perhaps a little of your background, (2) tell me what you hope to gain from this relationship with a mentor, and (if you have a preference) what kind of person you think could be most helpful to you.

Based on that, I will contact a WELV member who has volunteered to be a mentor and who will then make contact with you. Then the two of you can take it from there! We ask that our mentorships follow these five general guidelines, unless the two of you agree on something different:

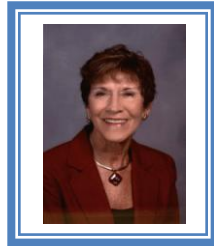
1. The mentor is first and foremost a friend and listener. She will show interest in you and your daily challenges, she will ask questions to gain understanding and to help you think through things, but she will give advice only if asked for it. Her mission is to understand and support you-- not to tell you how to do your job, or to tell you stories about her career (unless, of course, they're REALLY interesting or funny 😊).
2. The mentor will follow your lead in determining how the relationship looks. It may be as simple as a monthly e-mail, or it could involve phone chats, Skype calls, meeting for coffee (or wine), or perhaps even a visit to your school. This is up to YOU. The mentor may present you with choices and invitations, but there is never an obligation on your part. Remember that this relationship is all about you!
3. If you are at a place in your career path where you are looking for change or advancement, you may want to let your mentor know. Many of our mentors have contacts across the state and country, and can advise you about things like interviewing and resume-building. However, your mentor will not share information about you with other people unless you ask her to do so.
4. As the relationship develops, you may decide that you want to discuss a problem or situation that is sensitive in nature. We will carefully select a mentor for you who has been in your shoes and who understands the importance of confidentiality. Again, your mentor stands ready and willing to help, support, and encourage you through trying times and difficult situations, but the amount and kind of information you share is up to you.
5. As a general rule, your mentorship is intended to begin in February and extend through the beginning of the 2012-13 school year (in other words, for about 9 months or so). However, you and your mentor may agree to extend it longer than that. Likewise, either of you has the option -- with no blame, fault, or foul- to opt out earlier for any reason (or no reason- we will not ask!). At whatever point the relationship does come to a close, you have the option of another mentor should you want one. You would do that by contacting me directly at lmccullough@teachstone.net. I look forward to hearing from you!

SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE

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

Name: Brenda Blackburn

Current job title and location:
Superintendent, Montgomery
County Public Schools



Education: B.A. and M.A. degrees from Appalachian State University; additional post graduate work at University of South Carolina and Stetson University

WELV Member: Since Spring 2010

What led you to select a career in education?

I have a great passion for public education. This is probably because my own public education created opportunities for me that I never dreamed possible. As a first generation high school and college graduate, I have experiences with overcoming some of the barriers that young people face. As a young person, I wanted to make a difference for others. I had experienced the power of teachers who had impacted the future. Becoming a teacher was a natural course for me to pursue to hopefully have that same kind of impact.

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

Upon arrival at my current school district, I was immediately faced with huge challenges in the area of school facilities. Montgomery County had just lost the use of a high school due to the collapse of the high school's gymnasium, and there were other longstanding facilities needs that were not funded. It has been extremely rewarding to work with local government officials and community members to accomplish the design and funding of \$125 million in capital improvements. By mid 2013, Montgomery County Public Schools will complete two new high school projects and, by summer 2014, will finish a combination renovation and new construction project for a middle school. Providing these wonderful new schools for students and our community is very exciting.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Every time a student crosses the stage and gets a high school diploma, I feel a sense of accomplishment, not only personally but also for all of the educators who supported that student's efforts. I love the look of pride that I see on the faces of students and parents on graduation day.

What are some of your hobbies?

My early career was as a history teacher, and I love to travel and see the places where history was made. I also enjoy reading great mysteries, cooking, and being outdoors.

What is your favorite quote?

"What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child, that must be what the community wants for all its children. "

-- John Dewey

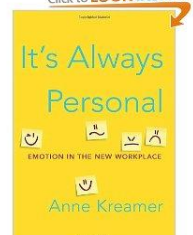
Is there any other information you would like to share?

I moved to Virginia after spending 30 years in education in Florida. I'm enjoying the Commonwealth and have appreciated the professional support I have received from my fellow superintendents.

It's Always Personal: Emotion in the New Workplace will be discussed at the annual conference by a WELV panel.

With women now in the majority of the workforce and the lines between office and personal life blurring as never before, the dynamics of work have shifted profoundly. ***It's Always Personal*** combines the latest information on the intricacies of the human brain, candid stories from employees, and the surprising results of two new national surveys, reported here for the first time, which reached out to workers from all walks of life about their emotions on the job.

Click to LOOK INSIDE!



Student Profile – Allison Jordan

Name: Allison Jennings Jordan

Current job title and location: Social Studies Teacher at Rustburg High School (9th Grade World History 1 and AP U.S. History to 11th graders)

Education: Bachelor's degree from Mary Washington College in History, Masters from U.Va., pursuing a doctorate at Lynchburg College in Leadership Studies

WELV Member: Since 2011



What led you to select a career in education?

When I graduated from college, I thought I wanted to be a lawyer or a pharmaceutical sales representative. I thought I wanted to be rich. I worked a few random jobs for about a year and realized something was missing. I started to substitute teach at a local high school. I realized how much I missed learning and interacting with others about knowledge. There is so much more to life than just earning a paycheck.

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

I feel so lucky to have a job that I absolutely love. Teenagers are funny, funny creatures. They teach me way more than I teach them. They are generous and forgiving in contrast to many adults. I love watching them problem-solve. I know I make a difference! They may not remember all the historical facts, but they will know more about the study of history and hopefully, be better citizens of this global world.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

I am always proud when former students tell me I made a difference somehow. Personally, I am proud of having a supportive husband who is also my best friend. I am super proud of being a mom to Nicholas (21 months old).

What are some of your hobbies?

Well, being a doctoral student is my most recent hobby. I love to read for fun...I guess that will pick up again in 2014. I have 4 cows that act like pets. I have a dog named Lucy—nobody has told her she is a dog, though. My two year old keeps me busy with dancing, picking up acorns, and playing in our creek. My family constantly plays tennis in the summertime. I attend lots of events at Rustburg High School. My students know that I am invested in them as whole people...not just in history class.

What is your favorite quote?

"Be the change you want to see in the world"—Mahatma Gandhi

I love this quote for a few reasons. 1. People complain a lot, but rarely have solutions. 2. Individual people can make a big difference. 3. I want to look back at my life and know that I have lived a purposeful existence.

Is there any other information you would like to share? I am incredibly passionate about being a classroom teacher. I think my colleagues are some of the smartest, most talented, yet selfless people that exist. I absolutely shudder when I hear someone say that they became a teacher 'for the summers off.' That gives the rest of us a bad name. (I'll get off my soapbox now!)

Regional Reps to Join Board of Directors

*Looking for an opportunity to get involved? WELV plans to add **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES** to the Board of Directors beginning with the annual meeting in March. Please consider nominating someone from your region, or self-nominate, by March 19. Details regarding this position are as follows:*

- One regional representative from each of the superintendent's eight regions in Virginia will be appointed by the President to serve a one or two-year term.
- Duties include but are not limited to the following: 1) promoting WELV events, activities, and membership throughout the designated region; 2) representing WELV at educational events throughout the region and/or state; 3) attendance at WELV meetings and the annual conference.
- Representatives may be reappointed.
- Initially, representatives for regions 2, 4, 6, and 8 will serve two years, 2012-2014, and the reps for regions 1, 3, 5, and 7 will serve one year, 2012-2013. This will allow for staggering of terms as the Board moves forward.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please see the WELV website (www.welv.org) for a regional map and nomination form. Please return the nomination form to PO Box 169, Gordonsville VA 22942 by March 19th.

Event Calendar

3rd Annual Regional Forum *(in collaboration with Lynchburg College, Randolph College and Sweet Briar College)*

Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA

Saturday, March 3, 2012

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Speakers: Ann O'Toole, Consuella Woods

13th Annual Conference: 'Performance...at Center Stage'

March 22-23, 2012

Doubletree Hotel, Charlottesville, VA

Speakers: Patty Culotta; Noelle Ellerson; Lorraine Lange, Pam Moran, Deborah Pettit, Belle Wheelan

2011-2012 Meeting Calendar - Board and Planning Committee meetings are currently held at UVA's Zehmer Hall, 104 Midmont Lane, Charlottesville VA, Room C. Call 1-209-647-1075 to join by phone. Then key in the participant access code which is 650804#.

Meeting date: March 2nd

Meeting Times: 3 - 4pm Board of Directors Meeting
4 - 5pm Conference Planning Meeting

Visit www.welv.org for more membership and upcoming event information