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News Release

For Immediate Release

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Charlottesville City School Board Member Juandiego Wade Receives VSBA Advocate for Education Award



November 20, 2020 – Charlottesville City School Board member Juandiego Wade was announced as the recipient of the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) Advocate for Education Award during the closing session of the VSBA Annual Convention earlier today. This award recognizes school board members who have demonstrated significant and outstanding leadership, commitment, and contribution to public education that has had an impact on their region and the Commonwealth, and who have shown active involvement in local, state, and federal advocacy on behalf of their division, VSBA, and public education. This is the sixth year the award has been presented. The award was sponsored by ABM.

Ms. Jennifer McKeever, Chair of the Charlottesville City School Board, said, “Nobody will be surprised that Juan Diego Wade is receiving the 2020 VSBA Advocate for Education Award. His tireless advocacy on behalf of children combined with his civic engagement in Charlottesville have been instrumental in making our community a better place for children and families.”

Juandiego Wade has been a dedicated and passionate advocate for public education the past seven and a half years in his role as a School Board member for Charlottesville City Public Schools. Both in public, large-scale leadership roles and in individual relationships with the many students he has mentored, Juan leads by demonstrating vision, honesty, integrity, trust, appreciation and empowerment of others. Juan has served the Charlottesville community through his service on a vast number of boards and committees which also have education related missions. The true depth of Juan’s character and his commitment to the success of young people can be seen in his work as a mentor. Juan deeply believes in the power of mentoring relationships – of being there for young men and women who need that trusting relationship as they tackle challenges in their education, career path and emerging adulthood. He is a rare example of an education leader who not only “talks the talk” but also “walks the walk” in his commitment to public education and ensuring the success of all students. Juan is a strong and effective leader who leads through the power of relationships and of character. Juan lives and breathes advocacy for education in the wide array of work he does and in his everyday life. Junadiego has received the Award of Distinction five times since 2013, and he has served on the VSBA board of directors as well as on the VSBA Task Force on Students and Schools in Challenging Environments.

About the Virginia School Boards Association

The Virginia School Boards Association, a voluntary, nonpartisan organization of Virginia school boards, promotes excellence in public education through advocacy, training, and services. The Association offers conferences, information, training, and counseling designed to meet the needs of the Commonwealth’s educational leaders.

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