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News Release

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VSBA Products of Public Education Celebrates the People and Possibilities of Virginia's Public Schools

Charlottesville, VA – The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) is celebrating the remarkable students and alumni of Virginia's public schools through its latest publication, *Products of Public Education*. The special publication highlights individuals whose experiences in Virginia's public schools have helped shape their careers, communities, and futures.

From current students and recent graduates to distinguished leaders in law, education, medicine, government, and the arts, the individuals featured in *Products of Public Education* demonstrate the lasting impact of public education and the many paths it can make possible.

The publication features stories from 14 Virginia public school divisions: Accomack County, Alleghany Highlands, Brunswick County, Chesapeake City, Chesterfield County, Loudoun County, Louisa County, Middlesex County, Pittsylvania County, Powhatan County, Prince William County, Southampton County, Staunton City, and Surry County.

Together, these stories illustrate that the impact of public education extends far beyond the classroom. Virginia's public schools prepare students to pursue careers, lead communities, serve others, innovate, and make meaningful contributions in countless fields.

The publications also reflects VSBA President Jenny Nichols' 2026 theme, *Rooted in Public Education*, highlighting how the experiences, opportunities, and relationships formed in public schools can continue to shape individuals throughout their lives.

"This year, my theme as VSBA President is *Rooted in Public Education*, and this publication bring that theme to life," said Jenny Nichols, VSBA President. "These 14 individuals represent the many ways public education takes root in a student's life and continues to grow long after graduation. Their stories remind us that the impact of our public schools can be seen not only in the classroom, but in the communities, professions, and lives of the people they serve."

While the publication highlights 14 individuals, their stories represent just a small portion of the students and alumni whose lives have been shaped by Virginia's public schools.

"We created *Products of Public Education* because there are so many powerful stories that deserve to be told," said Gina Patterson, Executive Director of the VSBA. "Across Virginia, public schools are preparing students who go on to become leaders, professionals, entrepreneurs, educators, community members, and so much more. The 14 individuals featured in this publication represent just a small sampling of the people whose journey began in Virginia's public schools. We are proud to share their stories and celebrate the lasting impact of public education."

The publication also highlights an important part of the public education story: success takes many forms. Whether leading Virginia's highest court, advancing medical research, serving on a local governing body, teaching the next generation of skilled workers or creating music, each individual's journey reflects the opportunities and relationships that can begin in a Virginia public school.

[Click here to view the full *Products of Public Education* publication.](#)

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In addition to the individuals featured in the publication, VSBA invites readers to explore the Products of Public Education Online Directory, which shows additional students and alumni submitted by Virginia public school divisions from across the Commonwealth.

[Click here to view the Products of Public Education Online Directory.](#)

Through *Products of Public Education*, VSBA is proud to recognize these students and alumni and the school divisions, educators, staff members, families, and communities that helped support their journeys.

About the Virginia School Boards Association

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

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