



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

February 14, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Educational Resources from the Library of Virginia: 2014 Strong Men and Women in Virginia History and 2014 Virginia Women in History Program**

I am pleased to bring to your attention the recognition of February as African American History Month and March as Women's History Month. To celebrate both occasions, the Library of Virginia, partnering with Dominion and the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, has mailed to Virginia social studies teachers and history and social science chairpersons in elementary, middle, and high schools the 2014 Strong Men and Women in Virginia History posters and the 2014 Virginia Women in History posters. Posters highlight the state and national contributions of African Americans and Virginia women, including a short biography of each individual honored. The posters are supported by online educational resources suitable for teachers in grades K-12. These can be found at: <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/smw/2014/> and <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/vawomen/2014/>.

This year's honorees are:

**2014 Strong Men and Women in Virginia History**

- Elizabeth Hobbs Keckly (1818-1907), Seamstress and Author, Dinwiddie County.
- John Mitchell (1863-1929), Newspaper Editor, Richmond.
- James Heyward Blackwell (ca.1864-1931), Educator and Community Advocate, Richmond. *Nominated by Barbara Sookins-Goode, James H. Blackwell Elementary School, Richmond.*
- Mary Alice Franklin Hatwood Futrell (1940-present), Educator and Organization Leader, Lynchburg.
- Olivia Ferguson McQueen (1942-present), Civil Rights Pioneer, Charlottesville.
- James Randolph Spencer (1949-present), Federal Judge, Richmond.
- William Darnell "Bill" Euille (1950-present), Mayor, Alexandria.
- Marcellus Spencer "Boo" Williams, Jr. (1958-present), Youth Sports Mentor, Hampton.

**2014 Virginia Women in History**

- Rachel Findlay (ca.1750-after August 17, 1820), Principal in a Freedom Suit, Wythe County.
- Mary Berkeley Minor Blackford (1802-1896), Antislavery Activist, Fredericksburg.
- Naomi Silverman Cohn (1888-1982), Civic Activist, Richmond.
- Christine Herter Kendall (1890-1981), Artist and Patron of the Arts, Bath County.
- Mildred Delores Jeter Loving (1939-2008), Principal in a 1967 Civil Rights Turning Point, Caroline County.
- Elizabeth Ashburn Duke (1952-present), Banker, Virginia Beach.

- Deborah A. “Debbie” Ryan (1952-present), Basketball Coach and Cancer Treatment Advocate, Albemarle County.
- Stoner Winslett (1958-present), Artistic Director and Choreographer.

For more information about either the Strong Men and Women in Virginia History or the Virginia Women in History projects, please contact the Library of Virginia education team, by e-mail at [education@lva.virginia.gov](mailto:education@lva.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 692-3001; or Betsy Barton, specialist for history and social science, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by e-mail at [Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 225-3454.

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