



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

October 31, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Strong Men and Women in Virginia History Writing Contest

The Library of Virginia, in collaboration with Dominion Virginia Power, presents the 2015 Strong Men and Women in Virginia History program. This program highlights eight African American leaders and their achievements.

High school students in Virginia are invited to participate in the annual essay contest. Four winning essays will be chosen, one from each of the four regions in Virginia that Dominion serves. Prizes include an Apple iPad Air for each student winner and \$1,000 for each winner's high school. Deadline for submissions is Friday, November 14, 2014. For contest rules and other information please visit <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/smw/2015/essay.htm>.

The 2015 Strong Men and Women in Virginia History honorees' names will be released in January 2015. Educational resources will be available at that time. Teachers may also request a set of materials to be mailed to them by contacting education@lva.virginia.gov.

For more information about either the Strong Men and Women in Virginia History Program or Writing Contest, please contact the Library of Virginia education team, by e-mail at education@lva.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 692-3999; or Betsy Barton, specialist for history and social science, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by e-mail at Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3454.

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