



# Board-to-Board

May, 2016

---

*A monthly report from the Albemarle County School Board to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors*

---

***Environmental Studies Academy Celebration:*** On Tuesday, May 24, Adam Mulcahy, Director of the Environmental Studies Academy at Western Albemarle High School, and ACPS leadership, welcomed business and community leaders to celebrate the opening of the Academy's new laboratory. Speakers representing Congressman Robert Hurt and the Chamber of Commerce offered comments of support for both the model of project-based learning, as well as the importance of relationships between ACPS and the business community.

**Team 19:** The pilot program that sees freshman at Albemarle High School learn core academic content in an interdisciplinary fashion, is wrapping up its first year of operation. Thus far, student and teacher takeaways point to greater levels of student engagement. What's more, Team 19's students have seen overall school performance increase, and report growth in their ability to relate academic content to the real world. As the programs grows, teachers will brainstorm ways to smooth transitions between interdisciplinary instruction, and SOL test prep.

Charlottesville Tomorrow Coverage: <http://goo.gl/c02ZxJ>

***Public Education Foundation of Charlottesville-Albemarle:*** Sharon Deal has been named the first full-time executive director of the organization aimed at supporting Charlottesville and Albemarle's public school. Deal said she wants to help teachers navigate a changing education landscape through professional development.

Charlottesville Tomorrow Coverage: <http://goo.gl/pr3oGt>

***AHS Art Extravaganza:*** On Saturday, May 14 at Albemarle High School, the AHS National Art Honor Society hosted the Senior Art Showcase, which featured a collection of the most outstanding work done by Albemarle High School seniors, including paintings, ceramics and photographs. This celebration of student art also featured live music by members of the Tri-M music honor society and a silent auction, all proceeds from which went to the Valley Forge Fund.

***Summer Programs:*** Albemarle County Public Schools offer a variety of enriching summer learning experiences, many of which are now open for registration. Among them are: **CoderDojo**—a popular program where students learn how to work in various computer languages, create computer apps and video games, design web sites, and gain programming experience; **Leadership Academy**—encourages students to explore the concept of leadership and develop a range of skills that they will apply to areas of their own interests; and **Fine Arts Academy**—students spend an extended period of time studying a field of art of their choice under the direction of a highly qualified and engaging teacher. Registration information found at: <https://www2.k12albemarle.org/dept/instruction/Pages/Summer-Offerings.aspx>.

***AHS Counselor Award:*** Jacquelyn Perry, a school counselor at Albemarle High School since 1994, is

the recipient of the General Colin L. Powell Service Award at the first Our Community Salutes program in Central Virginia. The program honors local and regional high school seniors who, upon graduation, will be serving in one of the uniformed services. Congressman Robert Hurt from Virginia's Fifth District and Brigadier General Terry Djuric (USAF, Ret) were the keynote speakers.

**Western Albemarle High School Senior Art Show:** From May 16-20 at Western Albemarle High School, the fine arts teaching staff at Western hosted a culminating experience for Western Albemarle art students in their senior year of high school. Students chose their best two- and three-dimensional pieces to showcase during this week-long celebration.

**Golden Apple Awards:** Earlier this month, 43 local public and private K-12 school teachers received awards and grants as part of the Golden Apple Awards—the annual regional program sponsored by Better Living in Charlottesville. Adrian Felts, Chair of the Charlottesville Albemarle Regional Chamber of Commerce, was the evening's keynote speaker. One Albemarle County Public Schools teacher, Gabrielle Schoppa of Burley Middle School, received a 21st Century Learning in the Classroom project grant of \$1,000 last year and provided an update on her work. Schoppa used her grant to start a robotics club at Burley and to purchase robotics kits plus educational software.

Daily Progress Coverage: <http://goo.gl/P4YxAf>

School Board website: <http://www2.k12albemarle.org/Pages/default.aspx>