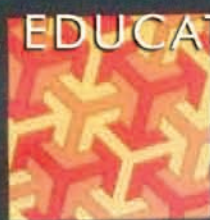


MAY-JUNE
2009

Tide water TEACHER

A MAGAZINE FOR EDUCATORS ACROSS HAMPTON ROADS

**HOW TO
THRIVE**
In the
First Year
of Teaching



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TEACHER CADETS
Developing a Passion
for Teaching Early

**COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG
TEACHER INSTITUTE
Makes History
Education Relevant**

essellations fills a plane in a pattern without gaps and
overlapping. Which of these examples show one shape
repeating? Which show two or more shapes repeating?
Which appear to be three-dimensional?

**STRESS
IS CONTAGIOUS**





By Dory Suttmiller

Donna Morris

Which teacher from your youth stands out in your memory? What made this teacher special and/or unique?

Jim Roberts was a fresh out of college 12th grade teacher in 1973. He taught a small government class of about a dozen students, making it interesting by relating his lesson plans to current events. His teaching showed us a way to deal with governmental change that affected us. In that year, the city school system merged I.C. Norcom and Woodrow Wilson High Schools students into the new Manor High School. I was no longer a Wilson President, but instead a Manor Mustang. I was bummed. I left many friends behind at Wilson. But Mr. Roberts helped us deal with that in his government class. Today, Dr. Roberts is Assistant Superintendent for Chesapeake Public Schools.

Strong schools are a vital part of a healthy economy. How can the school systems of Hampton Roads obtain and retain good teachers that will help our region flourish?

At the Hampton Roads Partnership, we have a strong interest in education starting with Pre-K. Building a strong workforce is vital to make our region economically competitive. While working with others to build a competitive workforce, I discovered the work of the National Center on Education and the Economy, (NCEE). Their mission is to develop proposals for building the world-class education and training system needed to be a world-class economy. One proposal suggests changing the shape of teacher compensation, which they



Biography:

Donna S. Morris has been in organization management for 30 years. Since 1996 she has been with the Hampton Roads Partnership, where she currently serves as Executive Vice President. Past positions include Director of Alumni Relations at Old Dominion University and various management posts in the Portsmouth, Hampton Roads, and Virginia Peninsula Chambers of Commerce. Donna is past chair of the Virginia Beach Community Services Board and currently serves on the Together We Can Foundation Board, a group focused on assisting youth aging out of foster care. Donna graduated from Old Dominion University in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education. She is a Portsmouth native and currently resides in Virginia Beach.



describe as currently “back loaded in the sense that it is weak on cash compensation, especially up front and heavy on pensions and health benefits for the retired teacher.” Its essence is, “the system is fine if you want to retain the teachers with the most years of service, but makes little sense if you want to attract young people to the profession which will allow them to afford to buy a home or support a family.” Their recommendation is to make retirement benefits comparable to private sector firms and use the money saved to increase teachers’ cash compensation.

To compete effectively in today’s economy, cities and counties must find ways to work together for mutual benefit. In your opinion, could the school systems of Hampton Roads also benefit by working cooperatively?

They absolutely will benefit from cooperation, and they are cooperating today. Examples of successful cooperation include the nationally recognized New Horizons Regional

Education Centers (www.nhgs.tec.va.us), owned and operated by six Peninsula school divisions. Southeastern Co-operative Educational Programs (www.secep.net) serves eight school divisions on the Southside of our region serving special education and alternative education students.

In 2000, the Hampton Roads Partnership initiated Smart Region Hampton Roads. Funding cuts in the governor’s budget eliminated our Regional Competitiveness Program, which was the primary source of funds for “Smart Region”, but specific collaborative efforts were started that continue today. The mission of Smart Region was to pull together disparate efforts throughout the region and coordinate them into a more purposeful, cohesive whole. Through the program, we worked with several regional education organizations including the Consortium for Interactive Instruction (CII) and the Hampton Roads Public Education Services Agency (HRPESA) to advance mutual goals.

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VICE-PRESIDENT
HAMPTON ROADS
PARTNERSHIP
MANOR HIGH SCHOOL:
CLASS OF 1973