



Achievable Dream
ACADEMIES

Achievements

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www.AchievableDream.org

A New Era Dawns



Kathy Edwards Named President and CEO of An Achievable Dream

An Achievable Dream entered a new chapter in February when Kathy Edwards was named president and CEO by the An Achievable Dream Boards of Directors. Edwards was named to the position permanently after stepping in as interim president following Aubrey Layne's departure in November 2013 to become Virginia's Secretary of Transportation. Uniquely qualified to take on the role, Edwards has worked with the organization since its inception, first as a volunteer and then as a full-time staff member.

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Class of 2014

An Achievable Dream Class of 2014, The Petters Family Scholars

On Thursday, June 5, An Achievable Dream's Class of 2014 will cross the stage at the Ferguson Center for the Arts on the campus of Christopher Newport University to receive their diplomas and embark on new lives filled with promise and with many dreams to fulfill. During their graduation ceremony, Valedictorian Taylor Braxton and Salutatorian Brianna Jones will address their classmates, along with Marilyn Sinclair-White, principal of An Achievable Dream Middle and High School. Ninety-three percent of the class members will receive an Advanced Studies Diploma, with more than forty percent graduating with a 3.0 or higher grade point average. One hundred percent of the class plans to attend college or a trade school.

Many of the graduates have attended school together since kindergarten, first at An Achievable Dream Academy and then at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School. When asked about their favorite memories of high school,

several seniors recalled field trips to colleges and Washington, D.C., cultural events, being inducted into the 3.0 Club, helping with special events and working in the main office. Career aspirations are wide-ranging, from being a chef and owning a restaurant, to becoming a lawyer, engineer and nurse practitioner, to owning a television network and hosting a radio show. Several students plan to study psychology and work with teens and their families.

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An Achievable Dream staff members take photos of "their kids" while the students pose for their official photo.

Mark Your Calendar! 22nd An Achievable Dream Tennis Ball: November 15, 2014 Hampton Roads Convention Center



Kathy Edwards with Franklin Roberson (Class of 2004, The Alan and Beverly Diamonstein Scholars, and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy) at the 2011 Tennis Ball.

Edwards joined the staff as director of development and communications and advanced to chief operations officer.

Working alongside Founder Walter Segaloff, Edwards raised more than \$2.5 million annually, managed federal congressionally directed grants, oversaw plans for donor cultivation and special events, and managed community and board relations. She has been involved in every aspect of An Achievable Dream, including overseeing operations at both schools. Edwards has been instrumental in the first expansion of An Achievable Dream to Virginia Beach, starting with a summer intersession this July at Seatack Elementary.

"We were so pleased to find our next president and CEO already in our administrative office," said Gordon Gentry, co-chair of the An Achievable Dream Steering Committee. "Kathy knows every facet of An Achievable Dream and is well respected by our boards, donors and the staff and community partners. We expect great things from Kathy and her team as we move forward to serve even more children in Hampton Roads."

A graduate of Virginia Tech, Edwards began her career in public relations in the mid-1980s. She managed university relations and communications at both Hampton University and Christopher Newport University before joining the staff of An Achievable Dream in 2000. 🌐

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure and honor that I have accepted the position of president and chief executive officer of An Achievable Dream. I thank the Boards of Directors for their trust and support. The fact that more than 900 enthusiastic supporters from across the region came together at the Tennis Ball in November tells me our schools matter greatly to the Hampton Roads community. Our responsibility is to keep the dream alive.

Knowing that I am following in the footsteps of Walter Segaloff, our founder, and Aubrey Layne, his successor, is truly humbling, but I am not daunted by the challenge. Certainly no one knows An Achievable Dream better than I. I worked beside Walter for 13 years and was involved in every aspect of fundraising, communications, marketing and operations. I had a key role in the advancement of our schools, first at the Academy and then at the Middle and High School; and along with Aubrey, I worked collaboratively with our new partners in Virginia Beach to establish An Achievable Dream Academy at Seatack Elementary.

To Walter's credit, he engaged me in all aspects of An Achievable Dream, and he knew that when and if the time came, I could lead our organization. In a three-page handwritten letter, which he wrote several years ago and left for me to read "just in case," he encouraged me to show my "inner strength." "Make the hard decisions with my successor, assuming that person's in place. If not, you make them." That time is now.

Moving forward will require not only dedication but also decisiveness, on everyone's part. We must adhere to strong business principles and expect the best from all employees. Our boards, armed with reliable guidance and information from staff, must be diligent stewards to keep An Achievable Dream on a steady course.

I therefore ask everyone, from benefactors to board members to employees to school system partners, to work with me to put our incredible program on a path to continued sustainability and success. The children and families we serve in Newport News, and soon in Virginia Beach, deserve no less.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Kathy Edwards
President and CEO

Kathy Edwards is interviewed for a promotional video at Seatack Elementary School.



An Achievable Dream Happenings



In February, **Julie Williams-Byrd**, an electro-optics engineer for the Space Mission Analysis Branch at NASA Langley, spoke about STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers with students at both An Achievable Dream Academy and the Middle and High School.



Powhatan Owen, a member of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, returned to An Achievable Dream Academy in February to speak about contemporary Virginia Indian tribes. An Army veteran, he enjoyed meeting the soldiers from Fort Eustis who volunteer in the school each day. He first spoke at the Academy in 2012.



Neil Christian, general manager of the Embassy Suites Hampton, visited An Achievable Dream Middle and High School in April to share information about careers in the hospitality industry during the morning program for middle school students. Three lucky students won gift certificates for brunch at Cyprus Grille, located in the hotel.



Bathsheba Smithen, (Class of 2002, The Cox-Hughes Scholars), rocked An Achievable Dream Middle and High School during a concert with her Washington, D.C.-based band in February. A graduate of Virginia Tech, Bathsheba earned a master's degree from George Mason University and is a teacher, singer and published author.



The members of the Academy's GEMS (Girls Educated and Motivated for Success) Club were thrilled to meet **Desiree Williams**, Miss Virginia 2013, during her visit in March. Ms. Williams also met with the 3.0 Girls at the Middle and High School and talked with them about setting goals.



In mid-April, WHRO Creative Services Officer **Barbara Hamm Lee** spoke about careers in broadcast media during the morning program for the students at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School. Lee also serves as executive producer and host of Another View, a program that examines issues of particular interest to the African-American community in Hampton Roads and airs on 89.5 WHRV-FM.

An Achievable Dream at Seatack Elementary on Schedule to Open in July

An Achievable Dream's expansion to Virginia Beach is on schedule for mid-July with Summer Intersession at Seatack Elementary School. Informational meetings for Seatack parents were held from February to May, and on Saturday, April 5, an "army" of volunteers from An Achievable Dream and Virginia Beach City Public Schools went door-to-door in the Seatack area to distribute information.



In this first year, students in kindergarten through second grade who are zoned to the Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy will attend. Students will wear uniforms and will participate in the program's award-winning SAME® (social, academic and

moral education) curriculum, which focuses on preparation for college and careers. In addition, there will be special field trips, extended day hours (first and second grade only), and Saturday school. Zoned third through fifth grade students will continue at Seatack, and the principal and staff will work to share some An Achievable Dream experiences with all students. One class will be added to the Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy each year. In three years, a second location will be added to ensure that students remain in An Achievable Dream through middle and high school.

The two top administrative positions for Seatack—principal and director of operations—have been filled. Mary Daniels has been the principal at Seatack Elementary School since 2009. She has worked with Virginia Beach City Public Schools throughout her 45-year career as an elementary teacher, math specialist, assistant principal and principal. Daniels received a BS degree from Old Dominion

College, a master's degree from Old Dominion University, a Certificate in Advanced Studies from George Washington University and a doctorate in education from Virginia Tech. Extremely popular with the students and families at Seatack, Dr. Daniels looks forward to sharing An Achievable Dream with them.

Chris Middleton has been hired by

An Achievable Dream as director of operations. After earning a master's degree in education from Old Dominion University, Middleton taught in elementary schools in Portsmouth before moving to Virginia Beach. During his nine-year career with Virginia Beach City Public Schools, he has served in numerous leadership roles including

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- Sentara Health Foundation
- Stihl, Inc.



Mary Daniels, principal of Seatack Elementary, assists a student.

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Opportunities for sponsorship of classrooms at Seatack Elementary/An Achievable Dream Academy are available. For information, contact Director of Development Kimberly Hansin at 757-599-9472 or Jay Klebanoff at 757-435-5750.

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grade-level chair, a member of the Principal's Advisory Committee, lead science teacher, co-chair of the Math Committee's Continuous Improvement Team and academic coordinator. As An Achievable Dream's director of operations for Virginia Beach, he will be responsible for all programmatic and personnel-related activities at Seatack Elementary / An Achievable Dream Academy.

Many current Seatack classroom teachers will remain, and Virginia Beach City Public

Schools system is in the process of recruiting and hiring additional teachers. An Achievable Dream began recruiting and training teachers for social and moral curriculum classes in May. Teacher training and other professional development, both internal and through the Urban Learning and Leadership Center (ULLC), will take place in early July.

Members of the Virginia Beach community have been very supportive in establishing the program at Seatack. Beginning in September, U.S. Navy personnel will participate in character-development activities, including the morning handshake, uniform inspections and the morning program. A Virginia Beach board of directors, which will oversee funding and strategic planning of the Seatack program, held its first meeting in March. Community leader Frances Luter is serving as chair of the board and Billy Foster, president of TowneBank Virginia Beach, is serving as vice chair. Formation of the full board is an ongoing effort; however, the full board of 15 members should be in place by the end of this year. A community advisory board is also being established. 🌀



Student courtyard



Interior views of Seatack Elementary

A LETTER FROM A STUDENT

The Daily Press recently asked 8th grade students at An Achievable Dream to write Letters to the Editor commenting on their communities. The following letter was published in the paper on February 15, 2014.

People are getting shot

There is only one issue in my community and that is the shootings! A lot of people are getting shot and it is not right. Kids and babies are getting shot. People are scared to go to their mailbox. Parents are scared to let their kids have fun and play outside. Gangs just want to see who and how many people they can kill. They think no one cares or no one is going to do anything about it. Unfortunately, it feels that way. People cannot even have a get-together without someone getting shot.

One day, in the summer, I was at my cousin's house on Lassiter Court. All of a sudden, I heard about 15-20 gunshots at Stuart Gardens. Somebody was having a party and someone started shooting. Another situation happened at a carnival. I had a bad feeling about my surroundings and then all of a sudden, I heard gunshots, so I ran. We all ran. We have so few events that come through our area and when they do, they get ruined.

I lost a friend a year ago. I never thought one of my friends would die by a bullet. My friend was only 13 years old.

*K. Perkins-Morant
8th Grade Student, An Achievable Dream
Middle and High School*

Mike and Nancy Petters, along with their daughters, Caroline and Sarah, are the sponsors of the Class of 2014. Mike Petters is president and CEO of Huntington Ingalls Industries, America's largest military shipbuilder. Nancy, Caroline and Sarah Petters are all teachers and active volunteers in their communities. Their generous donation provides annual merit scholarships for the members of the class for every year that they attend college and maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average.

College acceptance letters line the walls in the front hallway of An Achievable Dream Middle and High School. Graduates will be attending the

following schools, among others, this fall: George Mason University, Hampton University, Johnson and Wales University, Mary Baldwin College, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, Radford University, University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia State University, and Virginia Tech. 



College acceptance letters are pouring in for members of the Class of 2014. Thanks to your support, our students are achieving their dreams of college, career and outstanding citizenship.

Help make their dreams come true...

You can make a difference in the lives of nearly 1,500 An Achievable Dream students in kindergarten through 12th grade—and alumni who are now in college or trade school—who are working to achieve their dreams and become successful and productive citizens. Your contribution helps give our *Dreamers* the tools they need to succeed.

An Achievable Dream is changing lives through education. Your generous support will help keep hope alive for these students.

Donate online! Visit www.AchievableDream.org.



Yes, I want to help make dreams come true!

Name _____

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Enclosed is my check, payable to An Achievable Dream, Inc. for \$ _____

Please charge my gift of \$ _____ to VISA/MasterCard.

Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____

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Signature of cardholder _____

Please send me information about Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) Tax Credits, whereby I can recapture up to 67% of my donation to An Achievable Dream. (Call Alice Franklin at 599-9472 for further information.)

Thank you.

Sponsors Enjoy a Special Lunch

Students from An Achievable Dream Academy and An Achievable Dream Middle and High School hosted board members and sponsors during the annual Sponsors' Day luncheon on April 25. Attendees enjoyed a Chick-fil-A lunch, talked with students, and exchanged business cards before the program—"An Achievable Dream Presents Kid YOU!"—featuring students taking on the careers of special guests. Third grade student Drew Cox was a hit with her answer to the question, "What is the most special part about being an amusement park president?" Carl Lum, park president, Busch Gardens Williamsburg, presented Drew with his name tag and title upon her reply: "The most special part about being president of an amusement park is I get to see the kids and families have a good time with smiles on their faces, and hopefully I will get to see them again." 🌟



Academy students pose for a photo following the luncheon.



Carl Lum, Park President, Busch Gardens Williamsburg, and Drew Cox, Kid Amusement Park President, prepare to answer their question.

Sponsors Sylvia Weinstein and Bill Craft enjoy lunch with students.



To our Boards of Directors, thank you for your time, your support, your commitment and for "sharing the Dream."

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An Achievable Dream Tennis Ball:
November 15, 2014
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children socially,
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Honor Walter Segaloff's
memory during the
Run for the Dream 8K
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