On June 9, 2022, our Newport News senior class walked across the stage at the Ferguson Center for the Arts at Christopher Newport University and received their diplomas from An Achievable Dream High School. Family members, friends, faculty, and administrators gathered in celebration of our students’ remarkable accomplishments. Students also heard from class Valedictorian Dajah Daniel and Salutatorian Jasmine Morris.

We are so proud of these amazing young men and women, and we know they have bright futures ahead! The late N.C. Hardee and Linda Hardee are the Class of 2022 class sponsors. Mrs. Hardee shared:

“I send all of my warmest wishes and congratulations to the Achievable Dream Class of 2022. I am so proud of what they have achieved and have no doubt they will go on to live out their dreams. My late husband, N.C., would be incredibly proud of these young men and women. The sky is the limit for them!”

Always remember, An Achievable Dream is home. Congratulations, An Achievable Dream Class of 2022!
CLASS OF 2022 STUDENT STATS

- 49 Graduates
- 366 Applications to colleges and universities
- 262 Total college acceptances

- 63% will be attending a 4-year college
- 23% will be attending a 2-year college
- 4% will be attending a trade school
- 2% will be joining the military
- 8% will be joining the workforce

- $4,782,962 Total amount of scholarship funds awarded

- 57% of the Class of 2022 graduated with a 3.0 or higher grade point average
- 10% of the Class of 2022 graduated with a 4.0 or higher grade point average
- 94% of the Class of 2022 graduated with an advanced studies diploma

Achievements

- Nikyia Allen Attending Richard Bland College of William & Mary
- Ja’Nira Baker Attending Virginia State University
- Kaylee Benjamin Attending Old Dominion University
- Destiny Boyd Entering the Workforce at Newport News Shipbuilding
- Kamal Brooks Attending East Coast Polytechnic Institute
- Amir Brown Attending Virginia Peninsula Community College
- Kiara Burford Attending Richard Bland College of William & Mary
- Janel Burnette Attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Kevin Christian, Jr. Attending Old Dominion University
- Areyana Cordell Attending Montgomery Community College
- Dajah Daniel Attending George Mason University
- Ni’kemah Darden-Jeffries Entering the Workforce at Newport News Shipbuilding
- Demarcus Deanes Entering the Workforce at Newport News Shipbuilding
- Nygeria Driver Attending Christopher Newport University
- Maria Flores Attending Radford University
- Elisiana Floyd Attending Howard University
- Sharonda Goodman Attending Rudy & Kelly Academy
- Danay Goodrich Attending Old Dominion University
- Harris Graham Entering the Workforce at Newport News Shipbuilding
- Injena Green Attending Virginia Peninsula Community College
- Da’Jon Harris Attending Norfolk State University

The Class of 2022 completed:
- 60 honors courses
- 94 advanced placement courses
- 23 dual enrollment courses

5 seniors were early college students attending Virginia Peninsula Community College.
Congratulations to the Class of 2022!
Alumni Spotlight:
Jamel Robinson, Class of 2001

Jamel Robinson is a Class of 2001 graduate of An Achievable Dream. He lives in Lanham, Maryland, with his wife, Andrea, four-year-old daughter, Jaymee, and nine-year-old son, Jacen. Jamel and his family lived in northern Virginia before moving to Maryland. In 2006, Jamel began an information technology (IT) and cybersecurity career, and he owns R3 Tek Cyber Solutions, a cybersecurity consulting firm based out of Maryland. Jamel is also co-owner of another Maryland-based cybersecurity consulting firm, C&R Cyber Pros. He also began a transportation company, Mel & Crate, which delivers dry goods to various customers using box trucks. “As you can tell by my background, I’m an entrepreneur with a strong passion for cybersecurity,” Jamel said. Jamel mentors young men with a strong interest in cyber and penetration testing or hacking when he isn’t overseeing his business operations.

Jamel believes that An Achievable Dream prepared him for success at an early age. He shared, “The program focused on tennis, but more importantly on our education and career goals. I remember summer camps where we had to state what we wanted to be when we grew up. I always said I wanted to be an architect. Although I didn’t go down the architect route, those conversations forced us to think positively about our future. I’m grateful that An Achievable Dream set us up for success early on.”

When Jamel was eight years old, he and his older brother, Jacque Robinson, were accepted into the program. He was part of the first Dreamer class and recalled his group colors, blue and white. As he reflected on his acceptance into AAD, Jamel said, “I remember being so excited because we would learn how to play tennis, interact with other kids in our community, and have fun during the summer. Our overall experience at AAD was great! Growing up in downtown Newport News, there were a lot of activities that led young black boys to trouble. We are extremely grateful for AAD because it kept us away from those activities.” Jamel cites the program’s leadership as a positive influence, helping students remain focused and maintain academic excellence.

As a result of his exposure to tennis at AAD, Jamel received a tennis scholarship from Virginia State University in 2002. He was a member of the All-CIAA First Team during his senior year of college. “Looking back, the only reason I learned how to play tennis was because of the program and the amazing coaches I had—from Coach Smith to Coach Jackson and many more.”

Several AAD faculty influenced Jamel over the years. However, he places Walter Segaloff at the top of his list. He remembers Mr. Segaloff as a leader who genuinely cared about AAD students as if they were his children. Walter Segaloff went above and beyond for his students. For instance, Jamel specifically remembers visiting Jefferson Lab and meeting architects because he expressed his passion for the career as a child. “It was Mr. Segaloff’s vision to set us up for success at an early age. He used his strong relationships in the community to help the program and support us. The experience at Jefferson Lab was incredible, and it would not have been possible without Mr. Segaloff’s vision.”

The most valuable lesson Jamel learned at AAD was to work diligently to fulfill his life goals. He discovered this value after watching Mr. Segaloff and the AAD team work tirelessly to ensure that all students received a quality education and were prepared for their careers. Jamel implements the AAD core values in his business and mentorship.

On An Achievable Dream’s 30th anniversary, Jamel is amazed at the program’s growth over the years. “I’m certain the program will continue to make a difference in the community and prepare our future leaders in this country.”

It was Mr. Segaloff’s vision to set us up for success at an early age. He used his strong relationships in the community to help the program and support us.

— Jamel Robinson

Achievements
Crystal Fox, Class of 2005. My husband and I live in Hampton, with our four children, ages three to 14. I have been employed with Ferguson Enterprises, working in accounting since 2016. I am an acquisitions analyst for the company and specialize in onboarding newly acquired businesses, welcoming them to the Ferguson Family. My family’s most recent accomplishment is that we have started a trucking company called Big Dog Trucking & Dispatch! We are looking forward to delving into the trucking industry to have our own fleet in the future! An Achievable Dream taught me valuable life skills outside of learning from a textbook. Dependability, accountability, hard work, focus, perseverance, and preparedness are skills I learned as a Dreamer. We learned how to use and balance checkbooks, which was the first step to financial literacy for us as young children. These things, I believe, taught me how to pay attention to detail, which is highly important in my current career and will also be instrumental in our future endeavors with our trucking company. Taking pride in and ownership of my work has afforded me numerous advancement opportunities during my tenure at Ferguson. AAD taught me the importance of first and lasting impressions. One of the biggest things that is so great about An Achievable Dream is that it never forgot where it began. Many companies, or people, grow and leave behind where they started. AAD is an essential piece of our community; even though it has grown and created new schools, it has not forgotten where it all began—in downtown Newport News, giving children a chance to be successful instead of being left behind.

Janeen Graves, Class of 2016. I am currently living in White Stone, Virginia, alongside my husband, working as a college adviser for Northumberland High School and Lancaster High School. As an adviser, I work to increase the college enrollment rate among low-income, first-generation students. I also work to educate students about all of the post-secondary options available following high school graduation and aid them in working toward their post-secondary goals. An Achievable Dream helped to prepare me for my current career by encouraging me to attend college after graduation. Being in college opened my eyes to all the possible job and career opportunities available to new graduates. I graduated from the University of Virginia, an excellent school for preparing students for post-graduate success. Some of the most impactful people I remember from An Achievable Dream are James Hayden, Jonothan Lister, Belinda Flucker, and Lee Vreeland. Mr. Hayden and Mr. Lister were two teachers who were thoroughly honest with their students. They both understood the importance of telling their students about the hardships they could face once they entered the real world and how their choices during and after high school could impact life post-graduation. Because of this, they always pushed students to be and do their best. Though many students did not quite understand their “tough love” initially, they eventually realized that Mr. Hayden and Mr. Lister both cared for their students. Belinda Flucker is one teacher who I will always remember! You could always count on her to make the learning environment informative, yet fun for her students. Ms. Flucker would incorporate interactive games, meals, and other incentives into her curriculum to keep her students engaged and excited about learning. Because of her, I looked forward to attending school every day. Lastly, Lee Vreeland is another individual who has deeply impacted me. Dr. Vreeland is like a mother to every student who enters An Achievable Dream. Not only does she provide emotional and social support to current students but alumni as well. She always goes above and beyond to ensure the betterment of her “Dream babies.” Being an alum of An Achievable Dream means having lifetime access to a
A Legacy of Impact:
The Petters Family and An Achievable Dream

Mike,

You have always been a role model to me, and you exhibit so many leadership traits that I try to emulate and hope to instill in those I lead as well. I believe it is the exception rather than the rule for an organization to have at its helm someone who is always calm in the chaos, a visionary for the future, and a compassionate leader. Throughout your career, you have always been that exception and someone others can look to as an example. You continue to be that example, demonstrated so poignantly through your family’s support of An Achievable Dream and class sponsorship of the Class of 2014. As you can see in the pages of this newsletter, your impact is immeasurable. Investing not only academically but also personally in the lives of these young men and women, and other Dreamers like Franklin Roberson, has left an indelible imprint on their lives, on our organization, and in the community. Your family’s unconditional love for these Dreamers, and truly investing in their lives and staying connected to their journeys, made them not just students you support, but family.

I know the best is still to come for your family as you step into the next chapter and enjoy more time with those you love the most. Thank you for your leadership in this community. It will not be easy to fill your shoes, but I have no doubt that the team you have built will continue to make you proud.

On behalf of all of our Dreamers, staff, and team at An Achievable Dream, thank you for your support, and congratulations on this incredible milestone! I believe Walter is looking down with a smile on all that his dear friend has accomplished for this nation and for helping to keep his legacy alive.

Sincerely, Lee Vreeland, Ed.D.

An Achievable Dream celebrates the retirement of a longtime partner of An Achievable Dream, Class of 2014 graduating class sponsor, and president and CEO of Huntington Ingalls Industries, Mike Petters. An Achievable Dream president and CEO, Dr. Lee Vreeland, and AAD alumni shared memories of Mr. Petters’ leadership, community impact, and legacy.

Mr. Petters,

Congratulations on your retirement! You’ve had an illustrious career and have worked so hard over the years. I admire your service to our country, both in and out of uniform. As an active-duty naval officer, I appreciate you leading the charge in developing our newest platforms used to deter our adversaries and keep our nation safe. In addition to your global impacts, I admire what you have done for the community. Specifically, I am forever grateful for the support you’ve given to An Achievable Dream.

In addition to my journey, many other An Achievable Dream alum are currently living out their dreams, and many Dreamers are on track to accomplish their lifelong goals. These feats would not have been possible without your continuous generosity towards the program.

As a fellow submariner and United States Naval Academy alum, I can relate to your definition of hard work. However, it’s now time to enjoy the fruits of your labor with your loved ones. Once again, CONGRATULATIONS on an outstanding career, and thank you for the lasting contributions you’ve planted thus far. Always remember the difference you’ve made to the Dreamers and beyond.

Hats off on extending your weekend by five days! You can retire, but you can’t retire from being great!

Warm regards, Franklin D. Roberson, III
LCDR, SC, USN USNA ’11 AAD ’04

Mr. & Mrs. Petters,

I work as a research assistant at The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis in Richmond, Virginia, supporting research efforts across all policy areas. I received my B.A. degree in Public and Urban Affairs, with a concentration in Public Policy from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and a Graduate Certificate in Public Administration from the University of Virginia. Thank you and your wife, Nancy, for being willing to help me on my journey to achieving my goals. And a special thank you to Nancy for those cookies during our exam period in 12th grade. I will always remember how soft and delicious they were.

Happy retirement!

Sincerely, Briana Jones

Continued on page 7
Retirement!

What we accomplished that year. Congratulations on your retirement!

Sincerely, Denaja Edmonds

President’s Message, continued from page 1

A 100 percent on-time graduation rate, with nearly 1,000 alumni. These statistics are only a fraction of the program’s impact but are an example of Walter’s belief in the students of the southeast Newport News community and beyond.

Over the past 30 years, our team has navigated challenges with resilience, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite our obstacles, we always met our students’ academic and social-emotional needs. I cannot thank our supporters enough for standing by us and remaining committed to An Achievable Dream throughout the pandemic. Together with the support of the Dream Community, we’ve continued to provide support and resources to our students. We began our 30th anniversary with gratitude.

The AAD faculty, staff, teachers, and administrators are committed to changing the trajectory of young people’s lives. Walter would be pleased with our expansion of his vision to Virginia Beach and Henrico County. We kicked off our anniversary with a Day to Dream during our Dream Week to honor Walter’s birthday and legacy. Although he wouldn’t prefer a large celebration, he would be immensely proud of how you expressed your love for and dedication to An Achievable Dream. Many of you are longtime partners of the program and can remember the meetings with Walter, when he proposed the AAD concept. Having been mentored by Walter, this anniversary is near to my heart. It signifies what it means for a community to join together and do whatever it takes, year after year, for a child to receive an education and graduate, despite any social, emotional, or financial barriers. This anniversary also reminds us that we have more milestones to reach and more students’ lives to change.

While Walter appreciated our program’s many milestones under his leadership, he led with the future in mind and always thought about “what’s next” for the Dream Community. As part of the Dream Family, I am excited about what we can accomplish together this year.

Always grateful for you,
Lee Vreeland, Ed.D.
President/CEO, An Achievable Dream

Selected Class Notes, continued from page 5

Community of individuals constantly pushing you to grow and succeed regardless of age.

Johnell Judkins, Class of 2017. I graduated with my Bachelor of Social Work degree in April 2021. I began my career as a generalist family services specialist, focusing mainly on Child Protective Services. I work as a foster care family services worker at the Norfolk Department of Human Services. I thoroughly enjoy this work. Being able to work with some of the most vulnerable populations in Hampton Roads and treat all clients with dignity and respect is something that I pride myself in. Home is definitely where the heart is, as I currently reside in Newport News! Being a first-generation college student and graduating with honors is one of my proudest accomplishments thus far. It gave me a sense of community and instilled in me the importance of making lasting connections with community partners. I work with many people from different walks of life, which mirrors the environment of An Achievable Dream. My daily work is about lending a helping hand and nurturing the family dynamic, each family being different from the next. An Achievable Dream is the epitome of a family! Because of my experience with the program, I have a vast understanding of what makes a leader. As An Achievable Dream celebrates its 30-year milestone, it means that people near and far continue to greatly believe in its mission. The foundation was so strong that it maintained a sense of hope in our communities amid many uncertainties. The possibilities for what An Achievable Dream can do for students in the next 30 years are endless. As long as the program continues its partnerships, adapts to the needs of others, and keeps family at the forefront, there are no limits to its future impact.

Parish Thompson, Class of 2021. I reside in Newport News, and I am entering my second year at Old Dominion University, majoring in Strategic Communications. I enjoyed my first year and am excited to continue my education. I earned the Dean’s List for both semesters, which is probably my favorite accomplishment. I’ve had great moments at An Achievable Dream and appreciated how I could go beyond the traditional classroom setting and participate in many activities. I was excited when I joined the program because I knew it would be a unique experience. AAD taught me the importance of presenting myself respectfully. AAD focused on the details, such as how to greet people, appropriately dress when needed, and practice good table manners. I can see a difference when looking at other people my age, who probably did not learn these skills, and I am grateful for my lessons. In the next 30 years, An Achievable Dream can continue making a difference by going beyond teaching important life skills and helping students gain better education and life opportunities.
As we continue our Profiles in Leadership series, highlighting a few of the many leaders making a difference and impacting our communities, we are pleased to feature a longstanding partner of An Achievable Dream and friend of Walter Segaloff, John R. Lawson. In this special 30th anniversary edition, we had the opportunity to interview Mr. Lawson on his leadership, friendship with Walter Segaloff, and partnership with An Achievable Dream.

W.M. Jordan Company has been a longtime supporter of An Achievable Dream (AAD) since its inception in 1992. Can you share about your friendship with Walter Segaloff? How did he introduce the program’s concept to you?

Walter was a remarkable leader and friend. Lunch with Walter was an inquisition, not only on your thoughts but Walter’s intentions. He always took notes and was generously focused on your opinion and outlook. AAD was a concept that Walter saw in Israel and was so unconventional that it might succeed! Walter believed and had a magnetic effect on his friends.

W.M. Jordan Company is the graduating class sponsor for the AAD Class of 2007, and continues to sponsor and support AAD, including as a What It Takes partner, helping to teach our students the soft skills needed to succeed in the workforce. How is this ongoing partnership meaningful to W.M. Jordan?

AAD is the best program and effort we have ever seen, based on results. It is very rewarding to work with students who have structure and discipline in their lives through the model of the AAD program and are as committed as we are to increasing the quality of life in our community.

You served as president and CEO of W.M. Jordan Company for more than 30 years. How would you describe your leadership with the

An Achievable Dream Through the Years

Travel in time with us as we share a few of our milestones over the past 30 years.

1992
An Achievable Dream began as a summer and after-school tennis and tutoring program for 95 rising third-grade students.

1993
An Achievable Dream held its inaugural Tennis Ball in partnership with the Virginia Peninsula Rotary Club on November 13, 1993, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center.
It is very rewarding to work with students who have structure and discipline in their lives through the model of the AAD program and are as committed as we are to increasing the quality of life in our community.

—John R. Lawson, II

organization? What were some of the most pivotal moments you experienced during your leadership?

It begins with making people believe in you—being willing and able to do the most menial task while giving credit to others. Keeping a cool head and showing strength and confidence during recessions, challenging projects, and the pandemic are essential.

What do you believe are some of the core values that every leader should possess? How do these values drive the direction of an organization?

Optimism, enthusiasm, knowledge about all current issues, fearless, decisive, and the ability to delegate authority are core values that every leader should possess. Being able to admit failure and shortcomings, acknowledging the successes of each employee, and saying “thank you” and “I appreciate you.”

What are your core values as a leader? How have they influenced your leadership at W.M. Jordan and contributed to the company’s success?

Monetary objectives never work. You must focus on the culture and process. At their core, people are not mercenaries; they want their teammates to like them and for both of them to be successful. Be clear in your direction, answer questions honestly, and never try to make your fortune on someone’s misfortune.

How do you keep your team focused on the big picture at W. M. Jordan? How can other leaders focus on the big picture?

Constant reinforcement on the overall strategy, what it takes to get there, how we quickly adjust to outside or inside challenges, and most importantly, continual and relentless improvement. Other leaders can improve by self-evaluation and sharing best practices with best-in-class competitors.

An Achievable Dream is entering its 30th year in operation. What do you think contributed to the program’s success and sustainability? How is Walter’s legacy being carried on?

AAD is successful due to Walter’s visionary leadership and the community’s continued belief in its mission. It will require constant support and reinvention to sustain.

Celebrating 30 Years of Dreams

1994

2001
The first class of An Achievable Dream graduated from the AAD program at Heritage High School.

2007
After renovations were completed at the former Briarfield Elementary School (with construction partner W.M. Jordan Company), An Achievable Dream Middle and High School opened its doors.

2011
Forty-two seniors became members of the first graduating class from An Achievable Dream High School.
July 1, 2022 marked the 30th anniversary of An Achievable Dream and the birthday of our late founder, Walter Segaloff. We chose to celebrate Walter during our Dream Week to commemorate the milestone of our 30th year. We kicked off Dream Week with our first-ever virtual giving day and debuted seven days of surprises to celebrate YOU — our Dream Community!

Have you checked out our Anniversary homepage? Visit 30Years.AchievableDream.org to view a timeline of An Achievable Dream through the years, purchase exclusive AAD logoed items, watch videos that tell the AAD story, and post a favorite memory about An Achievable Dream!

In case you missed our Dream Week surprises, you can still support An Achievable Dream all year long by becoming a 30th Anniversary Sponsor or making a one-time gift to become a 30th Anniversary Dream Keeper. Don’t miss your chance to join our community of 30th Anniversary supporters on the Wall of Fame!

November 12, 2022 Christopher Newport University • David Student Union
An Achievable Dream’s 30th Anniversary Celebration

To purchase 30th Anniversary sponsorships, visit 30Years.AchievableDream.org

2013
An Achievable Dream partnered with Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) and began plans for the program’s first expansion beyond Newport News, beginning with Seatack Elementary School.

2017
An Achievable Dream and VBCPS initiated expansion plans for middle school students to attend AAD at Lynnhaven Middle School in Virginia Beach.

2018
An Achievable Dream partnered with Henrico County Public Schools to open An Achievable Dream Certified Academy at Highland Springs Elementary.

An Achievable Dream began its program at Lynnhaven Middle School with the first day of summer intersession on July 9, 2018.

www.achievabledream.org  Achievements
30th Anniversary Sponsorships

Since our founding in 1992, An Achievable Dream has continued to bring equity to education by providing opportunities for success for young men and women in our communities. Supporters like you have brought life to AAD’s mission since the beginning, and now, as we mark this landmark anniversary, it will be the continued support of our Dream Community that sustains An Achievable Dream into the future.

Join us as we commemorate this special occasion and step into the next chapter of our story, together.

Sponsorships Available

Dream Sponsor: $10,000
Vision Sponsor: $5,000
Inspiration Sponsor: $2,500
Opportunity Sponsor: $1,000

To purchase sponsorships, visit 30Years.AchievableDream.org

30th Anniversary Sponsors*

Premier Sponsors

Petters Family Foundation

Hope Sponsors

Dr. Denise R. Chamblee and Dr. Gary A. Tanner

Sponsors as of October 19, 2022

Leadership Sponsor

Christopher Newport University

Dream Sponsors

An Achievable Dream Certified Academy in Henrico County expanded to middle school with sixth-grade Dreamers at Fairfield Middle School.

2021

An Achievable Dream broke ground on An Achievable Dream Middle and High School at Lynnhaven, projected to open in September 2023.

2022

In partnership with Henrico County and Henrico County Public Schools, plans began for An Achievable Dream’s Middle and High School space at the Oak Avenue Campus (formerly Highland Springs High School).

30 Years of Dreams 1992-2022

Summer-Fall 2022 www.achievabledream.org
In May 2022, our Class of 2019 alumna, Tasia Travis, graduated one year early from Virginia Tech with a Bachelor of Arts in communication science and social inquiries. Tasia’s grandmother and uncle wanted to support her at her graduation but did not have transportation, so our Director of Alumni Services, Elizabeth Aultice, drove the family to Virginia Tech. At An Achievable Dream, we will do whatever it takes for our students, alumni, parents, and families. We wanted to ensure that Tasia’s family could celebrate her achievements—even if it meant taking a road trip to Blacksburg, Virginia!

In addition to her early graduation, Tasia was accepted into Virginia Tech’s communications graduate program and offered a full-time graduate position as a freshman public speaking teacher. She plans to obtain a Ph.D. and will research communication and diversity. Tasia would also like to become a professor and provide resources to help marginalized people enroll in college. Tasia credits An Achievable Dream for teaching her never to give up, regardless of the circumstances. Tasia shared, “There were many times when I thought I didn’t belong or wasn’t smart enough. But, I remembered that I am not alone because I have the support of An Achievable Dream. I could reach out to any faculty member, and they would give me the motivation I need to succeed.” Congratulations, Tasia, from your Dream Family!

An Achievable Dream Welcomes New Staff Members

As An Achievable Dream spans six campuses in three school divisions, we are pleased to announce the addition of faculty members who will support our program’s mission and vision.

**James Hayden**
Senior Director of Operations and Student Services, Newport News

**Jamia Garrett**
Director of Operations and Student Services, Henrico County

**Nekeila Mangrum**
Director of Operations and Student Services, Lynnhaven

**Cheryl Smith-Robinson**
Director of Outreach and Special Programs

**Donna Manglicmot**
Director of Human Resources and Administration

**Suzanne Pease**
Trauma Informed Specialist

**Shelby Hernandez**
Events and Social Media Manager

**Lloyd McKeithan**
Success Coach

---

Thank you to our Boards of Directors for your dedication and unwavering support of An Achievable Dream.

**An Achievable Dream, Inc.**
Brian K. Skinner, Chair  
Mari Ann Banks  
Bill Brundage  
Elizabeth B. David  
William Downey  
Ivan “Bubba” Hutchison  
Nancy L. Levin  
Keira Lombardo  
Paul Muse  
Matt Needy  
Mario Stellute  
Kelly Till  
C. Dwight West

**AAD Middle & High School, Inc.**
Richard A. Coleman, Chair  
Ray Bagley  
Crystal B. Bright  
Arthur S. Casey  
Denise Chamblee  
Michael Daniels  
Chris Edinger  
Kevin Harrison  
Marsha Hudgins  
Branch Lawson  
Thomas W. Meehan, Sr.

**AAD Endowment, Inc.**
Timothy P. Dykstra, Chair  
Marvin Friedberg, Vice Chair  
E.D. David, Treasurer/Secretary  
Anne Conner  
William Ermatinger  
Gordon L. Gentry, Jr.  
Aubrey Layne, Jr.  
Steve Roberts

**AAD Virginia Beach**
Charles Barker, Chair  
Jay Klebanoff, Vice Chair  
Cheryl McLeskey, Director Emeritus  
Joan Berlin  
Tony Brothers  
Christopher “Kit” Chope  
William “Billy” Foster  
Craig Grube  
Ryan A. Hanson  
Lori Kalfus  
Frances Luter  
John Lynch  
EJ Manuel  
Paula Miller  
Will Morrison  
Becky Sawyer  
Bev Sessoms  
Jeff Silverman  
Annabelle Stiffler  
Michael V. Taylor  
Christopher W. Washington

**AAD Certified Academies**
Dr. Catina Bullard-Clark, Chair  
Courtney Graves  
Peggy Layne  
Doug Lutz  
Gabriel Morgan  
Bruce Rubin

www.achievabledream.org
Students Gained Hands-On Experience During Job Shadow Day

On May 25, 2022, we hosted the fourth annual Job Shadow Day. We partnered with nine local companies to provide a one-day shadowing experience for our junior class at An Achievable Dream Middle & High School. This year, it was held in-person, and our students were eager to gain hands-on experience with professionals working in their desired career fields. Participating Job Shadow Day partners included Newport News Fire Department, Newport News Shipbuilding Apprentice School, Doodle Donuts and Café, Christopher Newport University, Hampton Roads Eye Associates, Smithfield Foods, Keller Williams Realty, Brooks Crossing Innovation Center, and Hercules Fence.

While shadowing at the Newport News Fire Department, students learned basic CPR skills and how to intubate the lungs of an adult and baby. Elijah, an AAD student, shared, “I learned about CPR and saw what the technical squad does. It was a great trip, and I am now interested in becoming a firefighter.”

Dr. Latitia McCane, Director of Education at the Newport News Shipbuilding Apprentice School, spoke to students about her experience as the first African-American and the first woman in her role. Students toured the Apprentice School building and rotated through stations where they practiced welding, pipe fitting, painting, milling, electrical work, and pneumatics on virtual simulators. Students also enjoyed a Chick-Fil-A lunch donated by Bayport Credit Union with Newport News Shipbuilding vice presidents Matt Needy and Jason Sutton. Student Quintin shared, “I enjoyed learning about all of the school’s different opportunities for students. Welding was the most interesting to me, and I enjoyed trying it virtually and improving over time.”

Rebecca Whalen of Doodle Donuts and Café spoke to students about opening a new business and showed them how to make donuts. Students cut, fried, and decorated donuts, cinnamon twists, and apple fritters. Student Masiya shared, “This encouraged me to continue to pursue the culinary arts; I want to be a chef in a kitchen.”

Nevaeh, who visited Christopher Newport University, listened to a presentation by Brittany Roberts, who will soon be a licensed professional counselor (LPC). Ms. Roberts and other presenters told students why they chose to counsel as a profession and advised them on how they practice self-care while guiding others. After her experience at CNU, Nevaeh shared, “I learned about the number of residency hours you need to become a licensed counselor. I enjoyed hearing stories from the speakers, and I better understood the field from this trip.”

Students shadowed Dr. Denise Chamblee, Dr. Chan Nguyen, and Dr. Gary Tanner during a visit to Hampton Roads Eye Associates. Students learned about optical coherence tomography (OCT) scans used for early diagnoses of eye conditions, optos retinal imaging, and diagnostic equipment to view the retina. Student Shoniah said, “I learned about glaucoma. I enjoyed getting to interact with the patients. This experience was very encouraging. I was thinking about pursuing a different career, but this helped me refocus on optometry.”

Jessica Jones at Smithfield Foods gave students a first-hand look at the equipment and processes used to manufacture food. Students sampled the food, toured the corporate office and executive annex, and met some administrative professionals. After the session, student Drew, said, “I realized how much goes into the food we eat and how it gets to our plate. I also learned a lot of fun trivia about food-related things, like where Canadian bacon comes from and how Boston butt got its name.”

Aaliyah, who shadowed Olivia Barefoot, a realtor at Keller Williams Realty, shared, “I learned that real estate goes hand in hand with entrepreneurship. I enjoyed learning about real estate and compiling a buyer form.” Aaliyah attended a meeting with Ms. Barefoot, viewed property listings, and reviewed listings in the multiple listing service (MLS) system.

At the Brooks Crossing Innovation Center, students shadowed Mia Joe and coded music through an online music mixer program. Student Angel, shared, “The most interesting thing was hearing the different types of beats everyone made with the program. It encouraged me to look more into the technology field.”

After visiting Hercules Fence, student Bryan shared, “This trip encouraged me. Not only did the hands-on part intrigue me, but the sit-down and office work were also interesting. I would love to go back and get a longer, more in-depth experience.” Jay Klebanoff, Hercules Fence CEO and AAD Virginia Beach board member, and his team answered Bryan’s questions and offered career advice on management, finding direction, and working well with others. Bryan also learned about the fencing business’ operations, including proposals, contracts, and internal operations, and visited several job sites.

We appreciate our partners for making this day an engaging learning experience for our students.
The Event of the Summer!

The Second Annual Princess Anne Country Club (PACC) Summer Open Tennis Tournament was one for the books! On July 14-16, families, friends, community supporters, and guests gathered at the Princess Anne Country Club and the Cavalier Beach Club for a festive weekend of events to benefit An Achievable Dream.

We kicked off the weekend on July 14 with a Draw Party and Grillin’ & Chillin’ with live music on Breakers Boulevard at the PACC. On July 15, we watched elite men’s doubles teams face off during three rounds of tennis for the grand prize! We ended the festivities with a Beach Party, great food, fun, and live music at the exclusive Cavalier Beach Club. We are grateful to our partners and supporters for helping to make this event a success and to our planning committee for working tirelessly to coordinate this incredible weekend!

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Presenting Sponsors

Media Sponsor

Game Sponsors

KPMG International’s Trademarks are the sole property of KPMG International and their use here does not imply auditing by or endorsement of KPMG International or any of its member firms.
Summer Intersession: A Dream Reset and Jumpstart to the School Year

Our teachers and faculty held summer intersession across all campuses—with some exciting themes. In Newport News, at An Achievable Dream Academy, our students were “Dream Chasers,” as their teachers encouraged them to chase their dreams through learning about college, careers, and citizenship. The theme at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School was “Building Leaders and Innovators.” Students engaged in activities that strengthened their leadership and critical thinking skills. At Seatack Elementary An Achievable Dream Academy in Virginia Beach, our faculty taught students to “Come and Dream Under the Stars at Camp Seatack.” Our Dreamers’ lessons and field trips were related to nature, camping, and astronomy. At An Achievable Dream Middle and High School at Lynnhaven, the theme was, “Dream Reset: 2022-2023 Is Going to be the BEST Me!” Teachers implemented the SAME (social, academic, and moral education) framework to help students focus on mental excellence and wellness. In Henrico County, our teachers at An Achievable Dream Certified Academy at Highland Springs Elementary taught our Dreamers to “4C (Foresee) the Future.” During intersession, teachers facilitated learning experiences that highlighted college, career, citizenship, and creativity. Students engaged in learning to prepare them for a successful future. At An Achievable Dream Certified Academy Secondary at Oak Avenue Complex, formerly An Achievable Dream Certified Academy at Fairfield Middle, our teachers focused on “Building Mindful Dreamers.” Teachers implemented elements of the SAME framework, such as mindfulness, conflict resolution, and etiquette, while teaching fundamental academic skills.

All-Staff End of the Year Celebration

The faculty, staff, educators, and administrators from ALL An Achievable Dream campuses and the corporate office gathered on June 12 to celebrate the many milestones during the 2021-2022 school year with a luau-themed party. Our staff enjoyed food, danced, and received awards for their hard work throughout the year.

During the year, our team safely returned students to in-person learning, led Saturday school based on students’ academic needs, provided access to extracurricular activities through clubs and field trips, and ensured the SAME (social, academic, and moral education) framework was at the forefront of our students’ learning.

We are so grateful for our Dream Team and celebrate the many ways they are inspiring hope in our Dreamers!
Thank you to Chief Drew and officers from the Newport News Police Department for visiting Ms. Blackwell’s fifth-grade Dreamers at AAD Academy and recognizing them for showing compassion to others!

The eighth-grade Men In Black mentoring group at AAD Middle & High School at Lynnhaven bonded over a game of miniature golf!

Dreamers at AADCA at Fairfield Middle engaged in a discussion with AAD alumna, Keziah Scott!

Thank you, Delegate Karen Greenhalgh, for joining us on a tour of Seatack Elementary AAD Academy!

Ninth-grade Dreamers at AAD Middle & High School at Lynnhaven went on a field trip to iFly! During the trip, they engaged in an aerodynamics lab and learned the science behind flying!

Our third-grade Dreamer at AADCA at Highland Springs Elementary received a gift card for having perfect Saturday School attendance!

Thank you to Chief Drew and officers from the Newport News Police Department for visiting Ms. Blackwell’s fifth-grade Dreamers at AAD Academy and recognizing them for showing compassion to others!
Thanks to the support of our incredible Dream Community, this year’s Give Local 757 was a huge success! With the challenge matches from the Class Sponsor and Dr. Vreeland, we raised a total of $11,000.

We are so proud of our Dreamers at AAD Academy for winning best can structure in the elementary division of the Youth Volunteer Corps of Hampton Roads Canstructure Competition. Our Dreamers collected more than 3,000 cans and created Horseshoe Bend at the Grand CANyon!

In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, we celebrated our teachers across campuses. We are the Dream Team!

We were honored to welcome Delegate Anne Ferrell Tata and Councilman Linwood Branch to Seatack Elementary AAD Academy. Thank you for your support of our program!

Thank you to the many individuals and organizations who maintained their 29th Annual Tennis Ball sponsorship, and went above and beyond to ensure our students continue to receive the support, opportunities, and resources they need to succeed. During a special reception, we premiered a video honoring the Class of 2022 and recognized our amazing sponsors. The video also included a special keynote address from AAD Class of 2006 graduate, Travis Jones, and the announcement of the Class of 2022 class sponsors: the late N.C. Hardee and Linda Hardee.
At AAD Academy, faculty and staff joined Coach Kimberly Mason’s family to honor her Dream legacy with a playground dedication.

The faculty and staff at AADCA at Fairfield Middle posed in purple in honor of Lupus Awareness Day!

High school members of the STARS (Student Trial Advocates Reaching for Success) program at AAD Middle & High School participated in a mock trial and an awards ceremony with AAD alumna Shukita Massey.

Family Fitness Night was a success at AAD Academy! Students and families enjoyed activities, including an obstacle course, dancing, and basketball!

A special thanks to the J&A Racing Team for visiting our Dreamers at Seatack Elementary AAD Academy. The team greeted our students as they entered the building and engaged in the morning program.

Thirteen young men at AAD Middle & High School were honored to attend the 200+ Annual Scholars Breakfast, hosted by the 200+ Men Inc. This event showcased the best and brightest young African-American male high school students in Hampton Roads.
Our first alumni cookout was a Dream Team success! Approximately 45 alumni attended, ranging from the Class of 2004 to 2020 and enjoyed gathering with their former teachers and playing games and activities.

We were honored to welcome the Smithfield Foods Black Professional Network and Kara Dixon from WAVY-TV 10 to An Achievable Dream Academy to read and engage in activities with our Dreamers in honor of Juneteenth!

We celebrated our Dreamers’ academic promotions across campuses! Whether they are beginning their sixth- or eighth-grade journeys, we cannot wait to see what they will achieve in the fall.

Thank you to our community partners for helping to make our field day a success for our Dreamers across campuses!
Thank you to our Achievements sponsors

Stay Connected with An Achievable Dream. Sign up to receive our monthly email newsletter, the Power of the Dream, and receive the latest information on our Dreamers. Go to www.AchievableDream.org or send an email to information@AchievableDream.org.