ACHIEVEMENTS

Junior Achievers and Future Leaders

At An Achievable Dream, our vision is to bring equity to education by providing opportunities for success in school and life. We pride ourselves on our proven results based on our Dreamers’ academic and post-graduate achievements. We are proud of Hopeton Bailey and Joi Wilson, eighth-grade Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School in Newport News, on their induction into the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Jr. program. The two students were inducted into the organization on December 11 at the Brooks Crossing Innovation Lab in Newport News. On their academic achievement, Dr. Lee Vreeland, president and CEO of An Achievable Dream, shared, “Our Dreamers reaffirm my belief in this organization every day. I am inspired as I watch them accomplish their goals and dreams with determination. Congratulations, Hopeton and Joi. This is only the beginning of your promising futures.”

Hopeton is also a member of the Young Men of Distinction and President’s Advisory Committee. His future endeavors include attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Howard University, or Virginia Tech and majoring in mechanical engineering. Hopeton shared that his induction into NSBE, Jr. is the first step in accomplishing his career aspirations of becoming a mechanical engineer.

After graduating from An Achievable Dream, Joi aspires to attend Harvard University and major in biology. At An Achievable Dream, she is involved in the step club and has earned the honor roll. Joi describes the NSBE, Jr. program as, “A Black engineering family of excellence,” and says that she will be afforded more opportunities and exposure to others in the field.
Alumni Spotlight: 
Jason Smith, Class of 2011

Jason Smith graduated from An Achievable Dream (AAD) in 2011. He is the proud parent of a 6-year-old daughter, Janelle. He currently resides in Richmond, Virginia, and owns a trucking business, Triple J, LLC. Jason shared that An Achievable Dream’s teachers and staff encouraged students like him to “dream big” and made him believe he could one day become a business owner. Mr. Hayden, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Nelhubel, and Mrs. Bowers were influential to Jason during his matriculation at An Achievable Dream. "They pushed me to try new things and encouraged me to put my all into whatever I decided to do in life," Jason said. He still applies the advice he received from these faculty members to his life today.

Jason began the program when he was in the sixth grade. "My first year was tough because I did not know my classmates. As time passed, the students and staff became my extended family." Faculty like Ms. Brown, Mrs. Carter, and the late Mr. Brickhouse made sure he was included in school activities, field trips, and received meals when his mother worked late. Jason shared, "My time at AAD turned out to be the best experience."

The values that the program taught Jason are integrity and doing the right thing when no one is watching. "I strive each day to ensure that my character reflects the Dream. As an alumnus of AAD, I know that I will continue to have that support and extended family bond for the rest of my life."

When asked about the impact of An Achievable Dream’s 30th anniversary, Jason shared that it is amazing to think about the number of students who have benefitted from the program’s education, family atmosphere, caring culture, and financial support. "Many students would not have achieved their dreams without the program." He believes the partnership between Newport News Public Schools and An Achievable Dream will continue to nurture thousands of youth who will make our community a better place to live.

“I strive each day to ensure that my character reflects the Dream.”

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Continued from page 1

year, the community has shown its unwavering support to this organization, and I could not be more grateful. The longevity of this program in Newport News, and the expansion to Virginia Beach and Henrico County result from longstanding partnerships with local school districts, businesses, the military, and supporters who are dedicated to our mission and vision.

We have seen challenges in education in the past year, but because of your commitment to this organization, you have continued your support. We are welcoming new outreach opportunities this year. At the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, we opened An Achievable Dream Middle and High School at Oak Avenue Complex to serve our Henrico County Dreamers. This summer we will be opening of our new state-of-the-art An Achievable Dream Middle and High School at Lynnhaven. We’ve celebrated a milestone anniversary in Newport News, and we anticipate the fourth annual A Night to Dream gala in Virginia Beach, and a celebration of the fifth anniversary of our Henrico County program.

I am grateful for our educators and leaders who choose our Dreamers daily. We are in a pivotal moment in education, and we cannot do this work without educators who make it their mission to provide bright futures for our students. In my 26 years of service to this organization, I’ve seen how the Achievable Dream team works despite challenges, or moments of change, to meet the needs of our Dreamers. As I lead An Achievable Dream into 2023, I know the future is bright for our Dreamers, our community, and education.

Sincerely, Lee Vreeland, Ed.D.
President and CEO, An Achievable Dream
Monique Nicholson, Class of 2002. There is so much that I can say about An Achievable Dream—I must first say thank you! I don’t know where I would be without this program. I graduated from An Achievable Dream in 2002. I earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration, with a concentration in real estate management from Saint Augustine’s College in Raleigh, North Carolina. I am pursuing my master’s degree in social work from Capella University while employed with the City of Hampton as a benefits program specialist. My goal is to become a licensed clinical social worker to assist people in my community. I am so proud to be an alumna of An Achievable Dream. Seeing its growth from an after-school program to now operating multiple schools is inspiring. An Achievable Dream reminds me that if you believe it, you can achieve it!

Shannika Sanders, Class of 2006. After graduating from An Achievable Dream in 2006, I obtained my bachelor’s degree in industrial technology and logistics. For the past 14 years, I have been a general manager at Footlocker, Inc. I am currently a manager at Champs Sports in Buford, Georgia. I am also a market leader for the Atlanta Geo Market, working alongside district managers and the marketing director. I was awarded Manager of the Year in 2021, and under my leadership, I gained $678,000 in profit while minimizing a $200 shrink loss. An Achievable Dream taught me the importance of never giving up and reaching my fullest potential. As a general manager, I ensure that I exceed my customer’s expectations daily. I leverage the power of my people to coach and motivate them, personally and professionally. An Achievable Dream taught me the importance of being a leader and role model.

The program was a home away from home. Every child who attended An Achievable Dream received the proper resources to obtain a great education. AAD set the foundation for our leaders to believe in us!

Nasir Curry, Class of 2014. An Achievable Dream has been a shining hope to me and ultimately changed my life. I was exposed to many different experiences, including opera, college tours, and volunteer service work. These experiences shaped me into a cultured person and helped me find my true purpose in life. I was exposed to many different experiences, including opera, college tours, and volunteer service work. These experiences shaped me into a cultured person and helped me find my true purpose in life. The AAD faculty and staff always pushed me to pursue anything I believed in, which is one of the reasons I have a college degree. I earned a bachelor’s degree in human development from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. I completed my first year as a graduate student at Radford University, where I am pursuing a master’s degree in social work. I plan to become a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) to provide mental health services to people of color and underserved and underrepresented populations. There are many stigmas surrounding mental health in my community, and I think I can make a difference being on the front lines. I enjoy seeing my brother complete the same program.

Caleb Weekes, Class of 2019. I began An Achievable Dream in the second grade and graduated from the program in 2019. I am a senior at Bethany College in West Virginia and a wide receiver on the football team. I am studying sports medicine and hope to open a training facility one day. My teachers, including Mr. Lister, Mrs. Buck, Mrs. Decker, and Ms. Kelly, were amazing. They all worked in the best interest of myself and my peers. An Achievable Dream provided me with skills to be successful in the workplace and taught me how to stay true to myself.
Annual Staff Holiday Celebration

Faculty and staff gathered across campuses on December 11th to celebrate the end of an incredible year. During the all-staff holiday celebration, members of the Dream Team saw an inspiring message of gratitude from Dr. Vreeland and our Dreamers and received $100 cash! We are grateful for our faculty and staff who go the extra mile for our Dreamers daily. Also, as a token of our appreciation for our faculty and staff across campuses, we celebrated our teachers with holiday treats as they led our Dreamers through the end of 2022.
**Holidays at An Achievable Dream**

**Seatack Elementary and First Colonial Elf Day**
Students from First Colonial High School visited Seatack Elementary An Achievable Dream Academy to help our Dreamers get into the holiday spirit by reading stories, dressing up as elves, and participating in arts and crafts. Our Dreamers received gift cards, toys, and treats and took pictures with Santa. Thank you, First Colonial, for creating this memorable experience for our Dreamers!

---

**Toy Drive distribution with Bubba Hutchison and Ferguson Enterprises**
A special thanks to Bubba Hutchison, Howard Hanna Real Estate, and Ferguson Enterprises for creating joy during the holiday season with their toy distribution at An Achievable Dream Academy.

---

**Men in the Making visit to American Legion Denbigh Post**
During the holiday break, members of the Men in the Making mentoring group traveled to the American Legion Denbigh Post to give back to the community. The members distributed food and gifts for children and facilitated and supported holiday games. Thank you to these young men for spreading peace and kindness during the holiday season.
As an educator, what is your perspective on creating equitable opportunities through education? Why is it important for children to have equal access to education?

What a timely question, especially with so much national and state attention on schools. As an educator, I recognize that the history of our school systems, just as with our country, is a history of exclusion. The origin story of education is a story of power—who “deserves” and “should” be educated, and who is considered unworthy. For whom would education be a “waste” of resources, whether answered by social class, gender, race, ethnicity, or mental or physical ability. Considering that education was not available to everyone, I think it’s so important to ensure that today—after all the hard-fought victories for equality and inclusion across social institutions—all children have access to quality education to they see themselves reflected in the curriculums. There are people of all ethnicities, race, gender, and abilities who have contributed to our country, and children need to see themselves reflected in schools so they have an image of how they can grow up and contribute to our society. Schools not only prepare children for their adult working lives, but when done well, they also prepare students to live in a diverse, democratic society. It’s such a precious time of academic, psychological, and social development, and I believe our schools deserve full investment to keep functioning towards those goals. Education should not be a commodity in which those who can afford it get the “best,” and everyone else gets an inferior experience. Education is an equalizer, and I’d love to see our communities, our states, and our country devote equitable resources to ensure all our kids have equal access to quality education.

Can you talk a little bit about leadership from your perspective—in what ways can elected officials work to build trust in their communities? How will you create a cohesive community with citizens living in Virginia Beach’s 10th District?

From my perspective, effective leaders are servant leaders. Leadership isn’t found in a title but in a vision. Where are you going? What are you trying to create, and why would people join you? Elected officials can work to build trust in their communities by being accessible. Leadership shouldn’t separate you from the people you lead. Be present. Attend sports games. Support local businesses. Visit civic leagues. I plan to create a cohesive community by being in the community with my District 10 neighbors.

In what ways are you most proud of your District as you navigate post-pandemic economic, educational, and social challenges? What opportunities do you see for your community’s growth?

District 10 is characterized by housing. Most of the land use is devoted to high-density housing, with some economic corridors on the periphery of the District (around Holland Road and Princess Anne Road). I am proud of our schools and teachers, who did their best to keep students engaged during the pandemic and are working hard to help students transition back into the classroom. I see opportunities for development in some of the vacant storefronts in my District and making residents aware of grants to help rehabilitate their aging infrastructure.

Education is an equalizer, and I’d love to see our communities, our states, and our country devote equitable resources to ensure all our kids have equal access to quality education. — Jennifer Rouse
Profiles, continued from page 6

What is one goal you want to accomplish during your tenure as councilwoman?

I share Dr. Martin Luther King’s vision of a “beloved community.” A community in which everyone is cared for, absent of poverty, hunger, and hate. I want to build that in my District and across the city. I believe some of the priorities I campaigned for (affordable housing, workforce development, and supporting our public schools) will help us get there.

What are you most looking forward to in 2023?

I’m most looking forward to settling into this role as a city council member. I feel like a freshman in college all over again—being new to this role and the governing work, I am both excited and hopeful about all I’ll learn and what I can achieve with my council colleagues and our community.

An Achievable Dream Alumnus Receives Grant Funding for Research

Dr. Brian McGowan, An Achievable Dream Class of 2001 graduate, recently received a $700,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to study equity-based teaching at the college level. On receiving this grant, Dr. McGowan shared, “I remain steadfast in better understanding and improving the educational experiences of students who tend to be marginalized and look forward to working alongside colleagues who share similar commitments. This project is both timely and imperative.” Dr. McGowan was also awarded a $1.3 million grant to explore Black undergraduate STEM students and racial equity in STEM. Dr. McGowan is an associate professor of education and associate director in the Center for Teaching, Research and Learning at American University.

An Achievable Dream Welcomes New Staff Members

An Achievable Dream is growing across campuses! We are pleased to announce the addition of new faculty members who will support our Dreamers, mission, and vision.

Ashley Aguilar, Development and Database Manager

Lamont Britt, Student and Program Success Coordinator, An Achievable Dream Middle and High School at Lynnhaven

Kayla Campbell, In-School Suspension Coordinator, An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, Newport News

Shaniqua Diggs, Student and Program Success Coordinator, An Achievable Dream Middle and High School, Newport News

Lorenzo Judkins, Tennis Coordinator, An Achievable Dream Academy, Newport News

Amasa Smith, Director of Strategic and Community Engagement

Elynn Ware, Student and Program Success Coordinator, An Achievable Dream Certified Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School

Angela Whitaker, Dining Hall Monitor, An Achievable Dream Academy, Newport News
An Achievable Dream  Celebrating 30 Years
An Achievable Dream held the 30th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, November 12, 2022, at Christopher Newport University’s David Student Union. Nearly 500 guests enjoyed a cocktail-style reception, heavy hors d’oeuvres, live music, and a program video celebrating 30 years of dreams. A special thank you to our sponsors and partners who helped make this an unforgettable occasion!

Thank You to Our Premier Sponsors
Former Mayor McKinley L. Price, DDS, presented with Doctor of Dreams at the 30th Anniversary Celebration

Guests at the 30th Anniversary Celebration honored Dr. McKinley Price, who served as mayor of the City of Newport News for the past 12 years and has been a staunch supporter of An Achievable Dream and a friend of Walter Segaloff since the program’s inception in 1992. Dr. Price was presented with the honorary Doctor of Dreams during the 30th Anniversary program.
Join us at The Historic Cavalier Hotel on Friday, February 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. for the Fourth Annual A Night to Dream gala. You won’t want to miss this opportunity to celebrate a decade of Dreams in Virginia Beach. Guests will enjoy a cocktail and heavy hors d’oeuvres reception, an open bar, live music, an online auction, and a special program. We are grateful for the Virginia Beach community’s continued support of An Achievable Dream. Your belief in our mission is what sustains our program into the future.

Tickets are available for purchase at NightToDream.org

During the Fourth Annual A Night to Dream gala, guests can participate in our online auction and bid on items, including home décor, travel experiences, and entertainment. Don’t miss your chance to bid!

Auction Items

Three-Night Stay at The Setting Inn, Willamette Valley Value: $5,500
Perched on a gently sloping hillside with commanding views of the Willamette Valley’s working farms and vineyards, The Setting Inn is the ultimate Oregon Wine Country retreat. Discover for yourself why The Setting Inn is one of the top places to stay in the Willamette Valley Wine Region and one of its hidden gems. This experience includes: Three-night weekday stay at The Setting Inn for two and wine tasting with a chauffeur and lunch. Reservations are subject to availability, blackout dates, and major holidays, and must be scheduled 60 days in advance.

Bees Nees Getaway and Catered Dinner Value: $7,500
Enjoy a two-night staycation at The Pink House with a catered dinner for 12. Part of The Pink Bungalows, The Pink House is a chic beach rental located in the ViBe Creative District in the heart of the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. The Pink House features three bedrooms plus a loft with additional sleeping, two bathrooms, vaulted ceilings, a designer grade kitchen fully equipped with Smeg appliances, a bar area, and a saltwater heated plunge pool. There will be a cocktail hour at The Pink House and a private catered dinner for 12 guests at The Carriage House. Included are four Olive Bees Nees custom-made glasses, one large Olive Somer Pitcher, and a Bees Nees limited edition candle.

“Ocean Bliss” SeaHill Spa Package for Two Value: $900
Spend a relaxing day at the SeaHill Spa with your favorite person and enjoy a 50-minute autograph aromatherapy massage and an 80 minute ocean crystal facial.

Solo Stove Bonfire and Stand Value: $420
The fire pit built for the backyard and beyond. Bonfire’s unique features combined with Stand’s power to help protect your surfaces, make this bundle an unrivaled player in all your outdoor spaces.
Thank You to Our Sponsors

Presenting Sponsors

TOWNE BANK
CHARLES BARKER AUTOMOTIVE
GOLD KEY PHR

Premier Sponsors

CASEY AUTO GROUP
FERGUSON cares
PRA Group
RIVERSIDE Health System
Smithfield
W.M. Jordan

Hope Sponsors

CA BARRS CONTRACTOR
Checkered Flag
Newport News Shipbuilding

Dream Sponsors

FRANKLIN JOHNSTON GROUP
HUDGINS CONTRACTING
MM GUNTER & SON CONTRACTORS

Vision Sponsors

C&M INDUSTRIES INC
DRAGAS COMPANIES
Graystone Consulting
HERCULES FENCE
PBMares

Inspiration Sponsors

COX
Dominion Energy
JOHNS BROTHERS SECURITY
Langley
Mellen Street Creative

Tim and Annabelle Stiffler

Opportunity Sponsors

Ashdon Builders
BDB Construction Corp.
The Beavers Family
Bishard Homes
BRITE

Kit and Melissa Chope
Marvin and Claire Friedberg
Fulton Bank
Gromelski and Associates, Inc.

Craig and Sue Grube
Harbor Group International
KPMG
Lawson
Siobhan Miller

Ann and Rusty Onhaizer
Troutman Pepper
Mrs. Kathleen Hickey Wallis
and Dr. James Wallis
Wegmans
An Achievable Dream Middle and High School’s NASA Ambassadors shared their expertise with fifth-grade Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy in a STEM activity titled “Safe Landing on the Moon.”

STEM ambassadors at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School had the opportunity to visit NASA and meet Pam Melroy, the second in command and an astronaut. Dreamers were also tasked with simulating and navigating obstacles for a safe landing using computers and go-bots.

The experiences our Dreamers receive allow them to interact with the world around them and build the knowledge to achieve success after graduation. Our Dreamers have visited the East Coast Hockey League All-Star Game, a performance by Symphonicity at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts, and the Virginia Aquarium.

Our Young Men of Distinction at An Achievable Dream Certified Academy at Highland Springs Elementary traveled to AMF Hanover Lanes for a bowling field trip. They also practiced etiquette during a working lunch.

On Saturday, January 7, 2023, Young Men of Distinction members at An Achievable Dream Middle and High School attended the 38th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast at the Hampton Roads Convention Center.
Fifth-grade Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Certified Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in a spelling bee. Congratulations to Dreamer Azyiah, who was declared the champion after 14 rounds of spelling. Azyiah will compete at the district level.

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Certified Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy raised more than $100 for United Way. They had the chance to duct-tape two teachers to a wall!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motivation!

Dreamers at An Achievable Dream Academy at Highland Springs Elementary School participated in the Dreamer Diner’s grand opening, where they were celebrated for demonstrating dedication, respect, excitement, accountability, and motiva...
Want to go green? You can now choose to receive Achievements ONLY in your inbox! Visit achievabledream.org/publications to opt in to paperless publications!

An Achievable Dream develops independent, productive citizens through a social, academic, and moral education. Be sure to connect with us online on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Don’t miss your chance to celebrate
A DECADE OF DREAMS IN VIRGINIA BEACH

Fourth Annual
A NIGHT TO DREAM
Friday, Feb. 24
6:30 p.m.
At The Historic Cavalier Hotel

Purchase raffle tickets NOW for a chance to win $10,000!
Raffle tickets are $100 each. You must be an event attendee to purchase a raffle ticket.

PLUS...
Online auction, open bar, live music, and a special program
See page 12 for more information.

Tickets are available for purchase at NightToDream.org

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.