# Superintendent’s Memo #087-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: April 12, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: 150th Anniversary of the Transcontinental Railroad

In recognition of the 150th anniversary of the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad (TRR), the Virginia General Assembly passed [House Joint Resolution No. 690](http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+HJ690ER) **-** *Designating May 10, 2019, as the 150th Anniversary of the Completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad in Virginia*....*WHEREAS, schools and leaders across the Commonwealth are encouraged to observe May 10, 2019, as the 150th Anniversary of the Completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad and celebrate the tireless efforts of all of those who overcame brutal obstacles, both natural and technological, to achieve the dream of uniting the country from coast to coast. . .*

A variety of activities and resources are available from the [Smithsonian National Museum of American History](https://americanhistory.si.edu/), the [Library of Congress](https://www.loc.gov/), and the [National Postal Museum](https://postalmuseum.si.edu/). The [1882 Foundation](https://1882foundation.org/) and the Smithsonian Institution will host a series of workshops on Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Activities for the day will reflect the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, with particular focus on the contributions of Chinese, Irish, and Mormon laborers. Teachers will also have the opportunity to engage with Smithsonian educators and curators from the National Museum of American History, the National Postal Museum, Asian Pacific American Center, and Center for Learning and Digital Access.

Teachers may register online at [1882 Symposium VII - Teachers' Workshop](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1882-symposium-vii-teachers-workshop-tickets-58902925235?mc_cid=f1b26aeafb&mc_eid=a51c76387f). For additional information or questions, please contact 1882symposium@gmail.com; or Christonya Brown, History and Social Science Coordinator, Office of Humanities, by email at Christonya.Brown@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2893.

JFL/CB/pk