



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: October 13, 2017
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Strong Men and Women in Virginia History Writing Contest**

The Library of Virginia, in collaboration with Dominion Energy, presents the 2018 Strong Men and Women in Virginia History program. This program honors African American leaders and their achievements.

High school students in Virginia are invited to participate in the annual essay contest. Four winning essays will be chosen, one from each of the four regions in Virginia that Dominion Energy serves. Prizes include an Apple MacBook Air for each student winner and \$1,000 for each winner's high school. Deadline for submissions is Friday, November 10, 2017. For contest rules and other information please visit http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/smw/2018/essay_prompt.htm.

The 2018 Strong Men and Women in Virginia History honorees' names will be released in January 2018. Educational resources will be available at that time. Teachers may also request a set of materials to be mailed to them by contacting education@lva.virginia.gov.

For more information about either the Strong Men and Women in Virginia History Program or Writing Contest, please contact the Library of Virginia education team, by email at education@lva.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 692-3999; or Betsy Barton, Specialist for History and Social Science, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by email at Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3454.

SRS/BSB/vdg