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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2019 COMMEMORATION SCHOOLS AMBASSADOR RECOGNIZED BY VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2018 Virginia Teacher of the Year and Wakefield High Teacher Michelle Cottrell-Williams Honored

Richmond, Va. - The [2019 Commemoration, American Evolution](#), was introduced during morning hour in both houses of the Virginia General Assembly on January 30, 2019. Comments about the commemoration's programs and activities were made by Delegate Christopher Peace in the House of Delegates and Senator Thomas K. Norment in the Senate. Virginia's 2018 Teacher of the Year Michelle Cottrell-Williams, a social studies teacher at Wakefield High in Arlington County, was recognized by both chambers for her service as an Ambassador for the 2019 Commemoration Schools program.

The 2019 Commemoration Schools program is a statewide initiative to make the themes of the 2019 Commemoration, democracy, diversity, and opportunity, relevant to students across the Commonwealth. The 2019 Commemoration Schools program provides tools and resources to accompany schools as they promote these themes and incorporate 2019 spirit and knowledge into Virginia's school communities and classrooms.

American Evolution Executive Committee Members Jeanne Zeidler, H. Benson Dendy, Paul D. Koonce and Frank Atkinson joined Michelle Cottrell-Williams, 2018 Virginia Teacher of the Year and 2019 Commemoration Schools Ambassador, for the Morning Hour sessions of the Virginia General Assembly.

The 2019 Commemoration Schools program is a critical part of the larger [2019 Commemoration](#), that recognizes the 400th anniversary of [pivotal 1619 Virginia events](#)

that forever changed the trajectory of Virginia and America's history. These 1619 events include the First Representative Legislative Assembly in the New World, the arrival of the first recorded Africans to English North America, the recruitment of English women in significant numbers to the Virginia colony, the first official English Thanksgiving in North America and the launch of entrepreneurship and innovation in the Commonwealth.

For more information about American Evolution's upcoming events, programs and educational initiatives, visit AmericanEvolution2019.com. You can also connect through social media (@Commemorate2019), the [Virginia History Trails mobile app](#), and [American Evolution Stories](#), the Commemoration's online storytelling platform.

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NOTE TO EDITOR: Picture attached - 2019_Commemoration_Ambassador_Morning_Hour.JPG - caption (Pictured left to right): Jeanne Zeidler, Michelle Cottrell-Williams, 2018 Virginia Teacher of the Year and 2019 Commemoration Schools Ambassador, H. Benson Dendy, Paul D. Koonce, and Frank Atkinson.

About the 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution

The 2019 Commemoration, American Evolution™, highlights events that occurred in Virginia in 1619 that continue to influence America today. Featured programs, events and legacy projects position Virginia as a leader in education, tourism and economic development. American Evolution™ commemorates the ongoing journey toward the key ideals of democracy, diversity and opportunity. Dominion Resources is an American Evolution Founding Partner and Altria Group and TowneBank are Virginia Colony Partners.