

*Arlington County Civic Federation
Arlington, Virginia
93rd Year
The Civic Voice of Arlington*

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Dr. Robert G. Smith

April 3, 2009

This honoree has been a resident of Arlington for almost twelve years coming from California to take on a very demanding job. In his position as Superintendent of the Arlington County Public Schools, he has spearheaded initiatives designed to ensure rising student achievement among all students and to eliminate achievement gaps. Beginning in 1998, the first year of Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL) testing, the passing rate for all students and each student group (white, black, Hispanic, Asian) has increased. In that same period, over 50% of the achievement gap on the SOLs has been eliminated.

Throughout his tenure in Arlington County Public Schools, he has emphasized the important of Teaching for Meaning as opposed to teaching solely to pass tests. Along this same line he has stressed the importance of encouraging students to take rigorous courses, such as Algebra I in middle schools and Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes in high schools.

Our honoree has received numerous awards, including the 2007 Citizens Award for Service to the Community from the League of Latin American Citizens and the 2008 Community Appreciation Award from the Arlington Chapter of the NAACP. And in 2008, he was named the Outstanding Professional Educator of the Year by the University of Maryland College of Education and is the recipient of the James B. Hunter Human Rights Award.

As Dr. Smith retires this year, we wish him well in future endeavors. Arlingtonians owe him a debt of gratitude as Superintendent of Schools for making our school system one of the most outstanding in the Nation.

It is with great pleasure that we present this Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Robert G. Smith.

Lawrence R. Mayer
President

Peter Owen
Chairman, Executive Committee