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CONTACT: Cameron McPherson
CRT/tanaka for *LEAD VIRGINIA*
804-675-8165
cmcpherson@crt-tanaka.com

LEAD VIRGINIA Announces New Board Members
New members' broad experience advance program's mission

RICHMOND, Va. (June 1, 2010) – *LEAD VIRGINIA*, the statewide leadership program now entering its fifth year of educating Virginia's leaders about the issues most relevant to the Commonwealth, has appointed eight new members to its Board of Directors. Each member will serve a three year term.

- **Toni R. Ardabell** – As chief executive officer of Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital in Richmond, Ardabell will apply her 34 years of health care leadership experience and expertise in building relationships in the health care industry to the board. Her passion for service and compassion for the citizens of Virginia will make her a vital contributor.
- **Beth A. Bortz** – As executive director of the Medical Society of Virginia Foundation, Bortz implements programs that teach physician leadership and awareness of health care needs of the underprivileged in Virginia. Her drive and desire to produce lasting results in health care across Virginia will make her a knowledgeable resource to *LEAD VIRGINIA*. Bortz will serve as chair of the 2010-2011 *LEAD VIRGINIA* Alumni Committee.
- **Adrian Chapman** – As president and chief operating officer of WGL Holdings, Inc. and Washington Gas Light Company, Chapman understands the energy needs of the citizens of a growing Virginia. He has worked for Washington Gas for 26 years in various capacities, including Manager of Interruptible Customer Sales, Manager of Economic Analysis and Director of Regulatory Affairs.
- **Vaughn R. Groves** – As executive vice president and general counsel for Alpha Natural Resources in Abingdon, Groves is an expert in the coal industry and mineral law. Groves will bring insight on Virginia's growing need for clean energy and the desire of coal companies to find a sustainable place amongst Virginia's energy providers.
- **Dario Marquez** – As chief executive officer for MVM, Inc., a leading provider of uniformed protective services, and the Silver Eagle Group, Marquez has a long history of commitment to youth, education and building strong communities that foster good citizenship. Marquez's expertise in community service initiatives and his dedication to the citizens of Virginia will provide the board with a vision for the future of leadership in Virginia.
- **G. Michael Pace, Jr.** – As a managing partner at Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore in Roanoke, Pace helped develop law education programs for middle-school and law school students in Virginia. Passionate about the law, education and community service, Pace will bring unique legal service perspective to the board.

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- **The Honorable Christopher K. Peace** – In his third term with the Virginia House of Delegates from the 97th district, Peace serves on the prominent Courts of Justice, Health Welfare and Institutions, Science and Technology, and Finance Committees. Peace's wide range of legislative knowledge will help the board with the broad issues facing in the Commonwealth today. He is also an adjunct professor of legal studies at Virginia Commonwealth University's Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs.
- **The Honorable Janet Polarek** – As secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the Office of the Governor, Polarek manages extraditions, clemency petitions, pardons, disclosures and conflict of interest filings, and assists the governor with the appointment of more than 4,000 individuals to serve on Virginia's boards and commissions. Having worked with Governor McDonnell for more than 10 years, Polarek can offer wisdom on the inner-workings of the governor's office and how *LEAD VIRGINIA* can best serve the state's political system.

"Our eight new board members bring a remarkable amount of experience across the Commonwealth that will help our organization grow and flourish," said Susan Horne, president and CEO of *LEAD VIRGINIA*. "These leaders will help the board improve the *LEAD VIRGINIA* program and carry out its mission to connect diverse leaders across industries to promote positive change in Virginia."

Dr. Patricia Cormier will continue to serve as board chair through 2010. As Longwood University president, Dr. Cormier's passion for higher education and leadership experience will help guide *LEAD VIRGINIA*'s statewide program.

LEAD VIRGINIA brings together experienced, established senior-level executives from public and private entities across the state to learn about important local and regional issues and opportunities. *LEAD VIRGINIA* educates participants about regional differences and statewide needs through the shared experience of seven, two-day sessions held throughout the Commonwealth.

Endorsed by the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, state universities and regional leadership organizations, *LEAD VIRGINIA* offers leaders a forum for gaining deeper insights into complex statewide issues, exchanging resources, creating momentum and working within and outside the political arena to usher in positive change for the Commonwealth. Specific curriculum themes of local/regional economies, as well as the larger issues of health and education, are explored through in-depth dialogue, on-site field studies and experiential activities designed to highlight the diverse interests of each region.

About *LEAD VIRGINIA*

LEAD VIRGINIA was incorporated as a charitable and educational organization in March 2005 and is patterned after similar models of statewide leadership programs across the nation. Led by a board of directors composed of business, education, government, non-profit and community leaders from across Virginia, *LEAD VIRGINIA* uses a proven model for developing a statewide network of leaders by engaging academic, business, civic and government advisors to educate class members on the wide range of key issues in Virginia. 2010 sustaining sponsors of the program include Bon Secours Richmond Health System, HCA Virginia, Norfolk Southern and Philip Morris USA. Additional sponsors include The Harvest Foundation, Dominion, the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, American Office and Mary Morton Parsons Foundation. More information about *LEAD VIRGINIA* can be found at www.leadvirginia.org.

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