

# Honoring Our Heroes

IMPACT REPORT 2019



ROBERT RUSSA  
MOTON MUSEUM





Suffolk County Public School educators visit the Moton Museum after attending the Moton Museum session at the Summer Literacy Institute at Longwood University



Rockingham County Public Schools visit for their Farmville Tour Guide Program. This program celebrated its 5th anniversary in 2019.

### Moton Museum Staff

- Cameron Patterson  
*Managing Director*
- Cainan Townsend  
*Director of Education & Public Programs*
- Leah Brown  
*Assistant Director for Education*
- Sherré Atkins  
*Guest Services Coordinator & Administrative Specialist*
- Aaron Barksdale  
*Guest Services Associate  
Longwood University Student Worker*
- Jessica Moore  
*Guest Services Associate  
Longwood University Student Worker*
- Dr. Larissa M. Smith  
*Longwood University Liaison  
Moton Resident Scholar*
- Dr. J. Michael Utzinger  
*Moton Resident Scholar*

### Moton Museum Board of Trustees

- Drexel Harris, Chairman  
*Richmond, Virginia*
- Ronald O. White, Vice Chairman  
*Southside Electric Cooperative  
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- G. Michael Pace Jr.  
*Center for Teaching the Rule of Law  
Roanoke, Virginia*

- The Honorable Jennifer McClellan  
*General Assembly  
Richmond, Virginia*
- Joy Cabarrus Speakes  
*Moton Council Representative  
Farmville, Virginia*

### Moton Museum Council

- The Honorable A.D. "Chuckie" Reid  
*Acting Chairperson  
Representing the Town of Farmville*
- Cynthia L. Johnson  
*Secretary & Resources Committee  
Chairperson*
- Joy Cabarrus Speakes  
*Development Committee Chairperson  
Moton Council Representative to the  
Board of Trustees*
- Sherry Swinson  
*Governance Committee Chairperson  
Representing Longwood University*
- Dr. J. Michael Utzinger  
*Programs Committee Chairperson  
Representing Hampden-Sydney College*
- Dennis Brown  
*Representing Centra Southside Community Hospital*
- The Honorable Megan Clark  
Magi Van Eps  
*Representing Virginia's Crossroads*
- Edwilda Allen Isaac  
*Representing Martha E. Forrester  
Council of Women  
(Moton's Founders)*
- Dr. Barbara Johnson  
*Representing Prince Edward County  
Public Schools*

- Dr. Wendy Lyle Jones  
*Representing Prince Edward County  
Branch NAACP*
- Eboni Lee  
John Melton  
*Representing Fuqua Schools*
- Grace Moton  
Melvin Nunnally  
Reverend Tom Robinson  
Charles Taylor  
Honorable Jerry Townsend  
*Representing Prince Edward County*
- Joy Stump  
*Representing Farmville Area Chamber  
of Commerce*
- Beatrice White

### Guest Services & Education Volunteers

- Doris Berryman  
Reverend Everett Berryman  
Mickie Carrington  
Bob Hamlin  
Diane Hamlin  
Cindy Hart  
Minister Deloris Hendricks  
Jennifer Holliday  
Cynthia Johnson  
Rita Moseley  
Etta Neal  
Mary Reed  
Joy Cabarrus Speakes  
Ledora Trent  
Quadarra Walker  
Reverend J. Samuel Williams

On the cover: We joined with the Oliver White Hill Foundation on March 30, 2019, to dedicate the Oliver White Hill Sr. state historical highway marker on the Moton Museum grounds. Story on page 6.

## From the Chairman and Managing Director

Dear Friends,

The Robert Russa Moton Museum continues to widen its reach and influence. We fulfill our mission of preserving and promoting civil rights in education by providing learning opportunities to students and citizens in every corner of our Commonwealth while maintaining a strong presence here at home.

In reading our Impact Report we hope you will celebrate with us as we highlight the important work we have completed together during 2019. This year included significant events to commemorate the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of *Davis v. Prince Edward County*, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Prince Edward County public school closings, and the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Griffin v. Prince Edward County*. In May, we held a dynamic three-day event commemorating these anniversaries with the Prince Edward County Branch NAACP, and in September, we hosted Cheryl Brown Henderson from the Brown Foundation for Equity & Research for a powerful roundtable with Moton student strikers. These occasions were important moments to pause and reflect on our history and highlight the work we must continue to do together as we advance our mission.

This year also featured a dynamic Moton Community Banquet with the Honorable Cynthia Hudson, Chief Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as the dedication of the Oliver W. Hill, Sr. state historic marker on the museum's grounds. We also completed the first addition to our permanent

exhibition since it opened in 2013. We partnered with the R.R. Moton/Prince Edward County Alumni Association to install a searchable Digital Wall of Names honoring students impacted by the school closings.

As we close 2019 we have a number of projects on the horizon that will help to upgrade our museum site and amplify our message to a broader audience. Stay tuned as we add much needed parking lot lighting to increase visitor safety, add new outdoor signage, and unveil a new and improved website at [motonmuseum.org](http://motonmuseum.org). This work is made possible because of you, our supporters.

We are grateful to each one of you who stand with us, sharing the powerful lessons of the past to help create a more just and equitable future. We look forward to our continued success together in 2020.

Sincerely,



Drexel Harris  
Chairman, Board  
of Trustees



Cameron Patterson  
Managing Director

## Mission of Robert Russa Moton Museum

Farmville, Virginia's former Robert Russa Moton High School, now a National Historic Landmark and museum, preserves and constructively interprets the history of Civil Rights in Education, specifically as it relates to Prince Edward County, and the leading role its citizens played in America's transition from segregation toward integration. Moton strives to promote dialogue and advance positions that ensure empowerment within a constitutional democracy.

## Vision Statement

The Robert Russa Moton Museum is envisioned to be a repository for historically significant materials that record Prince Edward County's thirteen-year struggle to achieve Civil Rights in Education.

The Museum will feature exhibits that document and reflect upon the period of transition from segregation to integration of public education, with particular attention to events occurring from 1951 to 1964.

The Museum will exist to commemorate the students and families whose courage and personal sacrifices brought about change.

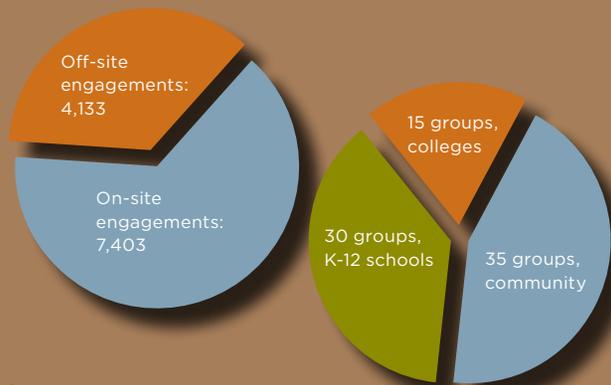
The Museum will serve future generations as an education center that delivers the story, a policy center for the study of Civil Rights in Education, and a provider of community outreach services to support area citizens.



Students from the Longwood University Honor's English 400 course listen to words of encouragement from community member Mrs. Barbara Spring.



Reverend J. Samuel Williams, Jr., Mrs. Patsy Franklin, Mrs. Joy Cabarrus Speakes, Mrs. Joan Johns Cobbs, and Mr. Bob Hamlin speak with students from Rockingham County Public Schools. These students visited Moton as part of their Farmville Tour Guide Project, which celebrated its 5th anniversary.



## Education & Public Programs

### Moton Learning Philosophy and Need

The Moton Museum is Virginia's only Civil Rights National Historic Landmark. At Moton we believe in the power of place. Visitors sit in the very room where students protested inadequate school facilities and initiated a strike. Through the five-gallery exhibit, guests explore the aftermath of that strike and how local, state, and national leaders reacted, including the five-year period when the schools were closed. The Museum tells an individual community's story while placing Virginia within the context of the national civil rights movement.

The educational staff enables visitors to explore unique Virginia histories through primary sources and oral histories and provides opportunities for visitors to address and analyze how individuals and their choices impacted their communities and the nation. Our educational activities seek to make civil rights history relevant, while also promoting dialogue around social justice and equity issues.

### Overview of Education Programming

Education programming at Moton includes on-site, off-site, and digital programs. On field trips, students tour the galleries and often get to speak with those who lived through the 1951 strike and the school lockout from 1959 to 1964. First-person conversations enable students to learn about the past from those who lived the history. These conversations, along with project-

based learning opportunities, help Moton be a vital place to make civil rights history relevant to young people today. In addition, Moton staff travel to schools providing Moton-specific and civil rights history content. Moton staff are currently working to expand digital content and digital outreach programs, such as virtual tours, panel discussions, and guided activities.

### Visitation by the Numbers

*Moton has engaged with over 11,000 individuals in 2019*

On-site: 7,403

Off-site: 4,133

Combined total: 11,536

*School and group engagement is at the heart of our work*

Engaged with 30 K-12 school districts in 2019

Engaged with 15 colleges and universities in 2019

Engaged with 35 community groups and businesses in 2019

*Visitors from all across the country and internationally*

Visitors represented 30 states and the District of Columbia.

International guests also visited from countries such as Germany, Japan, and Portugal.

*Keeping a local focus*

Forty percent of visitors live in Farmville & Prince Edward County.



### Leah Brown, Moton Education

Please join us in welcoming Leah Brown as the newest member of our Moton education staff. Leah started as our Assistant Director for Education in October. Leah will focus on helping to expand opportunities for our K-8<sup>th</sup> grade audience. Leah is a graduate of The College of William & Mary, where she majored in history with a minor in anthropology. She earned a master's degree in public history at North Carolina State University. Leah has worked at several museums and historic sites in Virginia, including the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. Her love of history inspired her to choose museum education as a career that would allow her to blend a love of learning about diverse topics with her passion for teaching. Outside of work, Leah is an enthusiastic traveler and avid reader. A grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has helped us fund Leah's position.

### Teacher Toolkit Grant

A grant from the Wells Fargo Education Foundation has enabled us to create Teacher Tool Kits to provide educators with resources to teach the Moton School Story. Requests for resources from teachers have risen since the Moton School Story was added to the Virginia Social Studies Standards of Learning in 2015. These Teacher Tool Kits include primary source exploration exercises, social justice activities, lesson plans, books, and access to exclusive Moton content. These tool kits are designed to add context for a field trip to the Moton Museum or to be a stand-alone program in the classroom. The education staff at the museum will be available to assist classroom teachers via video conference.

### Young Visitors Project Update

The Moton Museum continues to progress towards the goals of our Young Visitor's Project, supported by a grant from the IMLS. Moton is in the process of developing education resources for our website, creating age appropriate lesson plans for our K-8<sup>th</sup> grade audience, and creating professional development opportunities for teachers, pre-service teachers, museum volunteers, and museum staff. Advising us in this work is our Education Resources Group, which convenes periodically throughout the design and pilot stages to provide evaluation and feedback that will guide implementation of our work. Among the members of the Education Resources Group are Dr. Evan Long, assistant professor of education at Longwood University, and Mr. Adam Wolf, social studies teacher at Prince Edward County Middle School.



Cheryl Brown Henderson, President of the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence, and Research, visited Moton for a panel discussion to discuss her new book *Recovering Untold Stories: An Enduring Legacy of the Brown v. Board of Education Decision*.



Guests visiting for a Family Reunion Program



Members of the Moton Museum Staff and Council join with the Oliver White Hill Foundation Board of Directors and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to unveil the Oliver White Hill Sr. Historical Marker.



Members of the Oliver White Hill, Sr. family pose for a photo in front of the newly dedicated highway marker on the front lawn of the Robert R. Moton Museum.

## Museum Commemorations & Events

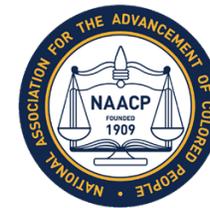
### Oliver W. Hill, Sr. Historical Marker

The Moton Museum was honored to join with the Oliver White Hill Foundation on March 30, 2019, to dedicate the Oliver White Hill Sr. state historical highway marker on the Moton Museum grounds. In attendance to help unveil the marker were members of the Moton Museum Council, the Oliver White Hill Foundation Board of Directors, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Board. We were thankful for the opportunity to honor a man whose legacy is forever tied to Prince Edward County and our community's fight for educational equality. The celebration included many members of our community.

### Recovering Untold Stories: An Enduring Legacy of the *Brown v. Board of Education* Decision

Cheryl Brown Henderson, founding president of the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence, and Research, helped to lead a panel discussion featuring Moton Student Strikers who were also plaintiffs in the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court ruling. This event is part of a national tour commemorating the 65th anniversary of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, highlighting the untold stories of the hundreds of plaintiffs whose narratives were lost behind the "et al." of *Brown, et al.* The discussion was captured by The 74, an education website leading the conversation surrounding K-12 education across the country. The panel focused on the historic legacy of the *Brown*

decision and also focused on its impact in the education arena today. The conversation was moderated by Cainan Townsend, Director of Education & Public Programs here at the Moton Museum. The 74 has some additional video content related to the visit and commemoration of *Brown v. Board of Education* ([www.the74million.org](http://www.the74million.org)).



### Milestone Commemoration Event: The Backward Glancing of the Forward Marching

The Moton Museum joined with the Prince Edward County Branch NAACP for the Milestone Commemoration Event. This three-day series of events commemorated the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the public school closings, and the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Griffin vs. Prince Edward County, Virginia*. The event featured a series of keynote speakers and panel discussions that focused on the legacy of *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*, Massive Resistance, *Griffin v. County School Board*, and a powerful intergenerational conversation with individuals impacted by the school closings and their children.

The Moton Museum and the R.R. Moton / Prince Edward County Schools Alumni Association join together to unveil the Digital Wall of Names. The Digital Wall of Names represents the first addition to the Moton Permanent Exhibition since it fully opened to the public in 2013.

## Digital Wall of Names

The Digital Wall of Names commemorating students locked out of schools between 1959 and 1964 officially opened on April 28, 2019. This project was a partnership between the R.R. Moton/Prince Edward County School Alumni Association and the Moton Museum. Visitors can explore the names of locked out students, their grade, and the school they attended in 1959 before schools closed. Additional research is being conducted to add names of other students to the wall.

At right, Mr. Leslie “Skip” Griffin Jr., Senior Consultant and Director at Dialogos, provided the keynote address for the dedication program. Other speakers included the Hon. Rev. Tossie Wiley, Cleveland Municipal Court Judge; the Hon. A.D. “Chuckie” Reid, Vice Mayor, Town of Farmville; Mr. Cornell Walker, President of the R.R. Moton/Prince Edward County School Alumni Association; and Mr. Cameron Patterson, Managing Director of the Robert R. Moton Museum.





## Moton Community Banquet

Above, Donors and volunteers working with our Family Challenge Campaign & Scholarship Fund were recognized for their efforts at the pre-banquet reception.



Above, Moton Trustee and State Senator Jennifer McClellan presents Senate Joint Resolution 358 to Mrs. Dorothy Holcomb, Moton Council chairperson, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the public school closings here in Prince Edward County, Virginia.



Left, Moton Managing Director Cameron Patterson appears with (from left to right) President Taylor Reveley, the Hon. Mr. Jerry Townsend, and Mrs. Gwen Akers-Booker, who accepted title sponsor awards on behalf of Longwood University, Prince Edward County, and Centra Southside Community Hospital, respectively.



Left column, top to bottom: Mrs. Dorothy Holcomb, Moton Council chairperson, receives the Robert R. Moton Distinguished Service Award for her years of service and contributions towards advancing the mission of the museum.

Above left, Sherré Atkins is presented by museum staff with a bouquet of roses for all of the behind-the-scenes work she does to make our Moton Community Banquet and other events a success.



Mrs. Janice Johnson receives the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award. Mrs. Johnson serves as a member of the Moton Banquet Committee and the Hospitality Committee, and she has been a strong supporter of our education and public programming efforts.

Above right, Takein Cooper, our Master of Ceremonies, presents the Hon. Cynthia Hudson with a token of appreciation on behalf of the Moton Museum for delivering a dynamic keynote address.

Mrs. Joy Cabarrus Speakes and Mr. Cameron Patterson recognize Family Challenge Families and Team Leaders for their contributions during the year's campaign.

Below, The Southside Jazz Quartet performed a few songs throughout the evening including a wonderful poem entitled "Midnight Train" by Langston Hughes.



## The Moton Family Challenge

2019 has been another exciting year for the Moton Museum and the Family Challenge. This is the ninth year of the Family Challenge, and it remains an impactful and rewarding annual fundraising activity.

Saturday, July 13, 2019, the Family Challenge Kick-off Reception was held at the Moton Museum. All captains and team leaders annually receive a packet from the chair, letting them know the purpose, the role of the Family Captain, and ideas on how to get their family involved in fundraising for the Moton Museum.

Through the Moton Family Challenge, individuals can designate donations in memory or in honor of the school-aged children and local families that were affected by the school closing of all public schools in Prince Edward County from 1959 to 1964 and whose sacrifice transformed American education for all.

During the Moton Museum annual Community Banquet, all fundraising participants are recognized. The family captains are given a reception and a certificate of appreciation. Team leaders are given plaques, and families and individuals in first, second, and third place receive trophies. The participants are the foundation of the family challenge success.

The Moton Family Challenge Scholarship Fund that was added in 2016 has received robust support, which allowed us to award annually to two college-bound seniors who are direct lineal descendants of students affected by the Public School Closing in Prince Ed-

ward County. These are \$2500.00 merit-based scholarships renewable for three years after the first year. We now have six students attending universities through the Moton Family Challenge Scholarship Fund. Awesome!! **There is no greater investment than an investment in our future leaders.**

Different public programs held during the year with great support from the community:

- September 6, 2019, a book signing, Dr. Twitty Styles, Son of Prince Edward County. He donated all proceeds to the Family Challenge Scholarship Fund.
- Saturday, September 28, 2019, a Pastors/Clergy Luncheon. The purpose of the meeting was to build a strong relationship with the pastors, clergy, and their congregations through collaboration with the Moton Museum and the Family Challenge committee.
- Cheryl Brown Henderson, Founding President of the Brown Foundation, gave a presentation from the book *Recovering Untold Stories: An Enduring Legacy of the Brown v. Board of Education Decision*. A project of the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research.
- Saturday, October 5, 2019, Family Challenge Donor Reception at the Moton Museum honoring all donors that support the furtherance of our mission.
- November 6, 2019, a Women's Empowerment Tea Fundraiser at Longwood University.

It continues to give me great pleasure to chair the Moton Museum's Family Challenge. It's an enjoyable journey. I am proud of the dedication of the families connected to the Moton Museum. To date, we have raised over \$400,000, and \$80,000 of that total is for the scholarship fund.

Please make sure that your family is a part of the Moton Family Challenge and share our great achievements with your family members and friends. The Moton School Story *Children of Courage* is essential and must be shared.

Gratefully,



Joy Cabarrus Speakes  
Family Challenge Chair, Striker  
and Brown v, Board Plaintiff

## Ways to Engage with Moton in 2020

### **Join our Email List for the latest news!**

Visit [motonmuseum.org](http://motonmuseum.org) to provide us with your email address and contact information. This allows you to stay up-to-date with the latest news and information related to the Moton Museum. Our team will send out monthly updates regarding events and other important news.

### **Attend and support our Moton public programs.**

You can keep up-to-date with our programming calendar at [motonmuseum.org/calendar](http://motonmuseum.org/calendar).

### **Encourage a group (school, civic, business, house of worship, etc.) in your area to visit Moton for an on-site or off-site tour or program.**

Our Guest Services Coordinator can begin working with individuals to arrange those visits at no cost. Tours and programs are developed to meet the needs of each group.

### **Volunteer with Moton.**

We are always looking for volunteers to help in our Guest Services and Education Departments. Volunteers help with our Moton Bookstore, greeting guests, giving tours, and working with school groups. If you are interested in supporting us in this way, then contact Guest Services at 434.315.8775 (ext. 6) or [sherre.atkins@motonmuseum.org](mailto:sherre.atkins@motonmuseum.org).

### **Support the Moton Museum Annual Fund.**

Your support and engagement with our philanthropic endeavors goes a long way in helping Moton to promote its mission. A gift to the Moton Annual Fund helps to support events, programs, school and group tours, and professional development opportunities for educators. Visit [motonmuseum.org](http://motonmuseum.org) to make your contribution in 2020!

### **Plan to join us at our annual Moton Community Banquet.**

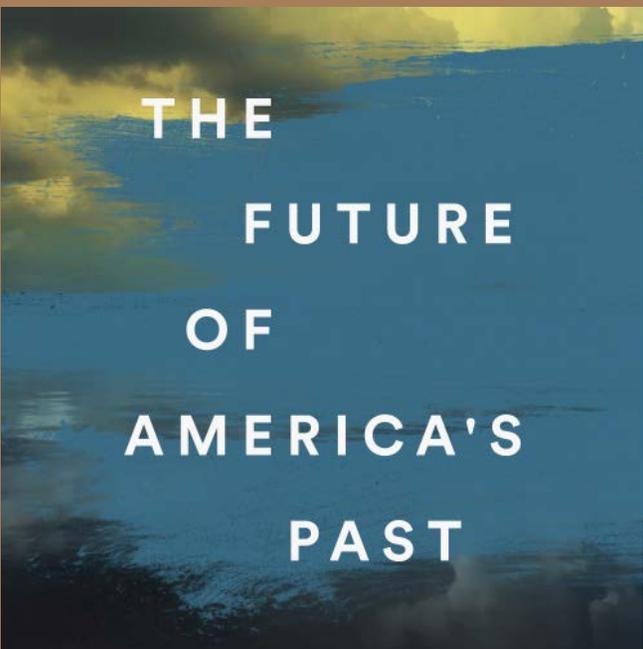
Your presence is most important. The Moton Community Banquet is a night dedicated to recognizing our supporters and honoring our local civil rights history. There are a number of sponsorship opportunities available (souvenir program ad, individual tickets, table/half-table sponsorships, title/community sponsorships).



Cumberland County 4-H students visit for a Moton program and workshop



Nottoway County Public Schools



THE  
FUTURE  
OF  
AMERICA'S  
PAST

**Future of America's Past  
Special Save-the-Date**

Join Ed Ayers—award-winning historian and co-host of the hit podcast *BackStory*—as he travels to places that define the most misunderstood parts of America's past. Ayers visits sites Americans struggle to discuss—and audiences have the opportunity to learn from National Park Service interpreters, museum educators, and cutting-edge guides how they engage a diverse public with the fullness of our nation's history. Ed was on-site in October 2019 to film a special Moton-inspired episode of the show. We look forward to sharing it with the public in April 2020, just in time for Barbara Johns Day and the anniversary of the Moton Student Strike on April 23, 1951. Stay tuned to [motonmuseum.org](http://motonmuseum.org) for a special Farmville viewing party!

# THE ROBERT RUSSA MOTON MUSEUM

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Please Join Us for the Ninth Annual  
**Moton Community Banquet**

An evening celebrating our local history and benefiting  
Moton Museum education and public programming

Saturday, February 29, 6:00 PM  
Longwood University Health & Fitness Center



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**THE HONORABLE JUDGE JOHN CHARLES THOMAS**



Visit Moton | 900 Griffin Blvd, Farmville, VA  
Visitor Hours: Mon–Sat, Noon–4 PM and by appointment. Free Admission.  
Call 434-315-8775 to schedule a group tour.  
Office Hours: Mon–Fri, 9 AM–5 PM. Facility available for rent.