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## LEADERSHIP PRINCE WILLIAM CLASS of 2009 WELCOMES SCHOOL LEADERS IN A FULL-DAY DISCUSSION OF EDUCATIONAL HOT TOPICS

January 15, 2009, Manassas, VA — Leadership Prince William Class of 2009 met at the **Edward L. Kelly Leadership Center** where school leaders for Prince William County, Manassas City and Manassas Park gathered for a day-long session to inform and educate the 2009 class about the opportunities and issues facing public schools in the greater Prince William area. Discussions also centered on the importance of the education system to the business community and were highlighted with student demonstrations.

Dr. Michael Otaigbe, *Prince William County School Board Member, Coles District* welcomed the class to the new state-of-the-art Edward L. Kelly Leadership Center, the new home of the Prince William County School administrative offices and school board chambers. Other speakers included a group of local leaders including: Sharon Henry, *Executive Director of Prince William County Public Schools Education Foundation and Supervisor of Community and Business Engagement*, Denyse Carroll, *Vice President, Manassas City Public Schools Education Foundation* and Bob Anderson, *Manassas Park Public Schools Education Foundation and Leadership Prince William, Class of '08*. The discussion centered around the contributions to education made by school-to-business partnerships and the education foundations.

Gail Hubbard, *Supervisor of Gifted Education and Special Programs, Prince William County Public Schools* and Molly Grove, *Director of Campus Relations, GMU--Prince William Campus, and Leadership Prince William, Class of '08*, provided insight into the Regional Governor's School. Dr. Larry Czarda, *Vice President for Administration, George Mason University* enlightened the group by discussing GMU's ranking as #1 "up and coming" school by US News and World Report. Dr. Sam Hill, *Provost, Northern Virginia Community College-Woodbridge Campus*, rounded out the morning with a presentation on the future role of community colleges.

Lillian Orlich, *Guidance Counselor, Osbourn Park High School* engaged the group with recollections and her unique perspective and insights on local education. She began her teaching career in the early 1950s and has been part of the school system ever since.

Dr. Tom DeBolt, *Superintendent of Manassas Park Public School System*, Dr. Gail Pope, *Superintendent of Manassas City Public School System* and Dr. Steven Walts, *Superintendent Prince William County Public School System* led a panel discussion about challenges at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

Jill Seamster, *Instructional Technology Resource Teacher, Pattie Elementary School*. demonstrated the interactive SmartBoards now being used in the classroom.

A highlight of the afternoon was a student robotics demonstration led by George Lombardi, *Mountain View Elementary School Third-Grade Teacher and Robotics Team Coach*. The Robotics Team of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders won first place for Robotics Design at a recent tournament.

*The program, Leadership Prince William, is built around a comprehensive, ten-month curriculum that brings key community information and imparts vital skills to the residents and business leaders of the Prince William area. Directed by a Board of Regents, Leadership Prince William is a private, non-profit organization with programs designed to prepare existing and emerging community leaders for pivotal positions in business, local government and community affairs. The courses inspire, enlighten, and connect a network of individuals interested in building a strong future for the Prince William community. The skills imparted during this intensive program will help launch graduates into new civic and business opportunities, and will create a positive force for change in the community.*

*Leadership Prince William is sponsored by Venture sponsors Prince William County Greater Manassas Chamber of Commerce and Prince William Regional Chamber of Commerce. Foundation Sponsors are George Mason University, Dominion Virginia and Micron Technology. ###*