



Investing in School Readiness

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**TWO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS RECEIVE SCHOOL READINESS AWARDS**

**Fairfax, VA** – On April 14, Fairfax Futures awarded its first two School Readiness Educator Awards to FCPS Principal, Dr. Anita Blain and ACCA Child Development Center teacher, Elizabeth Powers. Presenting the awards were Fairfax County Board of Supervisor Chairman Gerry E. Connolly, Fairfax County School Board Member Jane Strauss and Freddie Mac Foundation’s Director of Foundation Giving, Cheryl Clarke.

The School Readiness Educator Award recognizes outstanding educators who demonstrate a special commitment to supporting young children’s smooth transition to kindergarten.

Dr. Blain is currently principal at Wolftrap Elementary School in Vienna, Virginia and is former principal of Timberlane Elementary School. Elizabeth Powers is a child care center teacher and a former family child care provider in Fairfax County who earned her degree from George Mason University in early childhood education.

The awards were presented at Fairfax Futures’ third annual School Readiness Symposium at the Fair Lakes Hyatt Hotel, attended by 285 early childhood educators working in child care, preschool and Fairfax County Public Schools.

The annual School Readiness Symposium and the School Readiness Educator Awards are made possible through a generous grant from the Freddie Mac Foundation.

*Fairfax Futures is dedicated to ensuring that our county’s youngest children are well prepared to succeed in school and in life. In collaboration with partners across the county, we invest in early childhood education and school readiness by bringing attention and financial resources to sustain our region’s future. [www.fairfaxfutures.org](http://www.fairfaxfutures.org)*