

Tricia S. Jacobs, PhD

Bio

For nearly 35 years, Dr. Tricia S. Jacobs has worked diligently in education, cultivating leadership and communication skills to work effectively with students, teachers, parents, administrators, and community stakeholders. Using transformational and collaborative leadership, she empowers education teams to collaborate to decrease achievement gaps for continuous school improvement.

In 2014, Dr. Tricia Jacobs earned a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy from Virginia Tech with the dissertation, *High School Teacher Perceptions of Empowerment*. She received licensed endorsements in Administration and Supervision for PreK-12, Director of Instruction, and Virginia Division Superintendent at Virginia Commonwealth University (1998). Tricia was awarded her master's degree in Industrial Technology Education from Ball State University (1987) and an undergraduate degree in Industrial Arts Education from Buffalo State College (1986).

Dr. Jacobs is the Coordinator of Career and Technical Education (CTE) for Alexandria City Public Schools in Virginia. She has held numerous positions in education: Virginia Department of Education Coordinator of CTE Curriculum and Instruction (2016-19), High School & Middle School Assistant Principal (2000-05 & 2008-16), Instructional Leadership Support (2007), High School Principal (2005-07), Administrative Principal Assistant (1999), and PreK-12 & Post-Secondary Technology Education Instructor (1987-1999).

Tricia has mentored new and aspiring school administrators, assisting them with honing their professional skill set as leaders and managers of schools. Teams explored the many facets of running a school building successfully and the professional decision-making skill set that is paramount to successful school administrative leadership and management.

Dr. Jacobs coordinates her school division's Industry Advisory Boards around the 17 National CTE Career Clusters, enabling community stakeholders to provide valuable resources for the students and teachers she serves. Work-Based Learning (WBL) Experiences are just one type of this community partnership that prepares students to be college and/or career-ready.

She is passionate about developing career pathways that provide students with an education that includes deeper learning through hands-on competency-based skills education. With the assistance of a VDOE CTE High School Innovation Program Grant, Dr. Jacobs is currently working in partnership with Northern Virginia Community College and Washington Gas. The team plans to develop a five-year high school diploma and associate's degree program for Alexandria City High School students. The program will highlight energy courses within the Engineering and Construction Management plans of study.

Dr. Jacobs is a member of numerous state and national professional associations, including the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), Virginia Association for CTE (VCTE), Virginia Association of CTE Administrators (VACTEA), Virginia Technology and Engineering Association (VTEEA), International Technology Education and Engineering Association (ITEEA), and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD).

Tricia resides in Stafford, Virginia, with her husband, a middle school Technology Education teacher, two golden retrievers, and a cat. She is most proud of her two grown sons. They have benefited from competency-based skills education and have taken very different career paths in chemical engineering and adventure sports management. Tricia spends her precious free time traveling, reading, watching baseball, and enjoying her family.