



FIRST AFRICAN ARRIVAL AT OLD POINT COMFORT, VIRGINIA, IN 1619

May, 2019

Dear City of Hampton K-12 Teacher:

In recognition of the 400th landing of African people at Point Comfort (present-day Hampton), the 2019 Commemorative Commission will host a K-12 Teacher Institute. This successful Institute was piloted last year. The purpose of the Institute is to engage school teachers about the African landing in 1619, Monday, July 15, through Thursday, July 18, 8:30am- 1:00pm, at Hampton University, E. W. Scripps School of Communication. This Institute is of no cost to you. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided, as well as a stipend.

As witnessed by John Rolfe, the first tobacco planter in the Virginia colony, in August 1619, the White Lion entered the Chesapeake Bay, docked at Point Comfort (present day Hampton) with Africans from the country Angola. They spoke the languages of the Kimbundu and Kikongo. Some may have been Christians, as Christianity has an early existence in Africa. Many were literate and hailed from high organized societies. Two of those Africans in present day Hampton, were named Antoney and Isabell, and became servants of Captain William Tucker, Commander of the Fort. Around 1623 or 1624, they birthed the first African child in English North America, named William Tucker. The other arriving Africans were scattered throughout the Virginia colony, from Elizabeth City County to Jamestown.

Moreover, the arrival of the English encroached upon the lands and people of the Powhatan Confederacy, or the Algonquians. There were thousands of Native people inhabiting the eastern region of Virginia when the English arrived in the 1600s. The Confederacy consisted of the following ethnic groups – the Arrohatock, Appamattuck, Pamunkey, Mattaponi and Chiskjack. The Kecoughtans were added and other groups affiliated such as the Rappahannocks, Moraughtacund, Weyanoak, Paspahagh, Quiyoughcohannock, Warraskoyack and Nansemond.

The Education and Awareness Committee of the City Commission envisioned educating our schoolchildren by creating essay and art 1619 contests, and securing business sponsorship for awards for our pupils. Conversely, we envision re-educating our schoolteachers by creating this instructional and curriculum Institute. We believe that by having scholars retool our educators, we are investing in professional development efforts. The content for the Institute is different this year from last year:

Year 1619

- Standards
- Objectives
- Essential Questions
- Culturally Responsive Resources
- Lesson Plan Activity
 - Summary of Activity
 - Procedures
 - Time Needed

Assessment
Integration of Information

In addition to holding the Institute at a different venue, the opening module will consist of teaching sensitive historical material to schoolchildren, within the Standard of Learning objectives, from elementary school to Virginia and U. S. Government. The Institute will provide historical content, methods of instruction, ideas for educational creative modalities for each grade level, as well as bridge content for students to understand the contemporary relatability of the narrative. We need committed participants to be available for the entire 4-day, 8:30am-1pm weekday process. All supplies will be available for registered participants. If you are interested in participating in this Institute, please complete the online-application at <http://hamptonva2019.com/>

Best wishes to you,



Colita Nichols Fairfax, Ph.D.
Co-chair, City of Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission



Lt. Col (Ret) Claude Vann, III
Co-chair, City of Hampton 2019 Commemorative Commission