

# HAMPTON VA

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Fred Gaskins | fgaskins@hampton.gov | 757-727-6191  
22 Lincoln Street | Hampton, VA 23669

## **S.E.E.D.S. program honored for promoting family, school partnerships**

**April 17, 2015** - The S.E.E.D.S. program run by Hampton City Schools, Y.H. Thomas Community Center, Old North Hampton Community Organization and dozens of other organizations, businesses and volunteers, recently won the National Family Engagement Award from Successful Innovations Inc.

S.E.E.D.S., which stands for Strengthening Educational Experiences to create Dynamic Students, was recognized for promoting strategic family and school partnerships.

Successful Innovations, founded in 2006 by two former principals and a retired literacy coach, works with school districts nationwide on family engagement.

Every summer, the free S.E.E.D.S. Family & Community Resource Fair holds a “back-to-school” event that helps equip students at Title I schools with information and resources that help them start the upcoming school year.

In addition to picking up school supplies, students and their parents learn about local activities, organizations and resources available to families. They also learn about nutrition, managing finances and fire safety.

Last year, 555 people attended the fair, including 475 family members and 80 vendors, presenters and volunteers. In 2013 the fair had 514 people attend and in 2012 the fair had 323 people attend.

Hampton City Schools’ Title I Department received a plaque and a check for \$2,500 that will be used to expand the annual 2015 S.E.E.D.S. event, which is heavily supported by volunteers. For more information on Y.H. Thomas and the S.E.E.D.S. program, go to [www.yhthomas.org](http://www.yhthomas.org)

#