

## A Citizen Leader's Pledge

We, the current Longwood students in the year 2021, commit ourselves and those who follow to actively participate in the Farmville community and to build lasting relationships with residents of Farmville and Prince Edward County. To that end, we start with a model active citizen.

Let us be inspired by the past.

Robert Russa Moton High School junior, Barbara Johns, is one of the most admired residents in our town's history. In 1951, Johns and her classmates went on strike to protest the inadequate and overcrowded facilities they endured. Despite the inaction supported by Longwood's segregationist policies during the fight for educational equality, 117 plaintiffs signed on a court case leading to the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Brown v. The Board of Education*. It is our hope that going forward Longwood students take the Moton plaintiffs' actions as a model for their own active citizenship.

Let us be emboldened by the present.

The horrendous death of George Floyd, and many others, catalyzed recent demands for change and equality, only this time on a global scale. We, as Citizen Leaders, must be vigilant in our actions and words when advocating for equality and basic human rights. Longwood's Citizen Leadership Development Model suggests this starts in our own communities through engagement and listening to gain a better "understanding [of] the beliefs of others to build stronger, more compassionate relationships."

Let us pledge to act in the following ways.

Longwood has honored local influential leaders by renaming campus buildings—Allen Hall for Dr. Edna Allen Bledsoe Dean, and Moss and Johns residential Halls, for Dr. Gordon Moss and Barbara Johns. Fostering a compassionate relationship with the community, Longwood supports the Moton Museum and its educational endeavors. As students, we will strive to develop opportunities to connect with residents through new and continued partnerships, creating opportunities together and developing projects that are mutually beneficial.

*In the words of Abraham Lincoln, "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to*

*be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us.”*