



## **For Immediate Release**

### **MABE Announces Selection of Charles W. Willis Award Recipient Col. Donald Wade, Charles County Board of Education, 2013 Recipient**

**Annapolis, MD July 15, 2013** - The Maryland Association of Boards of Education has announced the selection of Col. Donald Wade as the Charles W. Willis Award Recipient for 2013.

The award, named for the first Executive Director of the Association, is presented to a board member who has made outstanding contributions to school board service in Maryland. Col. Wade was selected from among a number of highly qualified nominees recommended by local Boards of Education.

Since being elected to the Charles County Board of Education in 1998, Col. Wade has served several terms as chair and vice-chair of the board. He has been highly engaged in the drive to eliminate the minority achievement gap through early childhood and reading programs, and has served as a resource in enhancing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs in Charles County. He is also the co-founder of the Charles County Think Tank for Education, a community group devoted to thoughtful enhancement of education.

According to current board chair, Roberta S. Wise, "Col. Wade continues to champion quality education by staying in touch with students, educators, and the community. (The board) feels his unwavering passion for education makes him most deserving of an award that honors outstanding service at the local and state levels."

Col. Wade has also been an active member of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, including serving on the Board of Directors and various committees.

The award will be presented at the Maryland Association of Boards of Education Annual Conference in Ocean City, Maryland, in October 2013.

#### **About MABE**

Founded in 1957, the Maryland Association of Boards of Education is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to serving and supporting boards of education in Maryland. MABE is a leading advocate for public education in the state with a membership that includes all 24 Maryland boards of education.

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