



## PRESS RELEASE

October 5, 2018

Contact: Jeff Baldwin  
Communications Director  
Office: 888.790.2020 ext. 9  
Cell: 804.836.5489  
jeff@conexusvision.org

### **Conexus Honors Delegate Lee Ware with its Prestigious ‘The Joseph Nichols Award’**

Conexus recently honored Delegate Lee Ware with its prestigious ‘The Joseph Nichols Award’ in recognition of his ongoing efforts to remove poor vision as an obstacle to children’s success in school and in life.

“Delegate Ware has made a significant difference in the lives of children throughout the Commonwealth, addressing both a public health and public education issue,” said Tim Gresham, CEO of Conexus.

In addition to serving two terms on the Conexus Board of Directors, Delegate Ware has worked to update and modernize the state law dealing with public school based vision screenings. This past year, Delegate Ware introduced a budget amendment to support a pilot program that provides for comprehensive vision programming in more than thirty school districts across Virginia, serving more than 55,000 children.

“This pilot program we are conducting right now includes delivery of high-tech vision screenings and includes comprehensive data collection, parental notification and follow up with eye care providers,” added Gresham. “Delegate Ware fought hard for this project and he spent nearly three decades in the classroom and clearly understands the impact poor vision can have on education.”

“I was honored to carry this legislation and pilot funding amendment for Conexus and am already impressed with the early results,” said Ware.

As part of the honor, Ware was presented with a portrait that will hang in Conexus’ Richmond-based headquarters.

# # #

#### **ABOUT CONEXUS**

Conexus, based in Richmond, Virginia, is a private, non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization whose mission is to help every child reach their fullest potential by eliminating undetected and untreated vision problems as barriers to success in school and life. Originally established in 1957 as Prevent Blindness, becoming Conexus in 2014, the agency strives to support an unmet need within the vision community. 80% of what a child learns in school is through vision and 1 in 4 school children have a vision problem significant enough to impact learning. The Essilor Vision Foundation reports that children with uncorrected vision of less than 20/20 are 3 times more likely to fail a grade in school. Undetected and untreated vision problems impact incidences of juvenile delinquency, adult illiteracy, and unreached potential.

Conexus views children’s vision screening, when done appropriately, as a single task strategically incorporated as part of a comprehensive program to achieve the broader objective; changing the way the consumer thinks about and takes care of their vision. Conexus believes that a comprehensive program must contain the following well established and distinct components in order to be effective: a trusting and receptive partnership, education; quality best practice screening protocols; certified and credentialed delivery; informative and dynamic method to communicate results for both pass and refer; access to care; proper data collection analysis and follow-up.