



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Conexus Announces New Board Leadership and Members**

At a recent board meeting, Conexus elected Joe Bowman, former Commissioner of the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, to serve as Chairman of the Board of Conexus. Bowman follows former Virginia First Lady Roxane Gilmore as Chairman, a post she held for two years.

In addition, Terrence Kerner, President and CEO of Atlantic Constructors, was elected Vice Chairman; Steve Dickinson, retired Chief Financial Officer at Media General was elected Treasurer; and Brad Smith, Virginia Eye Institute CEO, was elected Board Secretary.

Conexus also welcomed John Locher, partner with Taylor & Parrish, and Dr. Bo Pegram, optometrist, each elected to serve as At-large members of the Conexus Executive Committee.

Three new members were also elected to the board: Clint Diers, Senior Vice President, Marsh & McLennan Agency (Rutherford); Tom Shockley, President, Technology Leasing Concepts (TLC); and Jay Swedenborg, Executive Director (ret.), Communities in Schools-Chesterfield.

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#### **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 unreach 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.