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VEA Names Dr. Brenda Pike New Executive Director

The Virginia Education Association has named Dr. Brenda Pike, a former classroom teacher from Tennessee with extensive experience in union management, as its new Executive Director.

Pike will join VEA after serving as executive director with the Alabama Education Association since 2016. She previously served as chief executive with the Indiana State Teachers Association and has experience working with affiliates of the National Education Association in Tennessee and Texas.

The VEA executive director oversees the work of more than 50 staff at the Association's Richmond headquarters and in regional offices throughout the state. Pike is the VEA's first female executive director.

"We are truly fortunate to have found someone whose love of public education is matched by her track record of advocacy, leadership, and accomplishment," VEA President Jim Livingston said.

"Public education is the great equalizer—or should be," said Pike. "I am most passionate about creating, preserving, and improving forward-thinking education policy that creates access and opportunity for all students regardless of who they are or where they live. I view the union as the most important advocate for the institution of public education, students, and our members."

Pike's educational background includes a B.A. from Union University in Jackson, Tenn., an M.S. from the University of Tennessee at Martin, and both an Ed.S and Ed.D from the University of Memphis.

Pike will begin work at VEA Monday, October 29.

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The more than 40,000 members of the Virginia Education Association believe that every child deserves a great public school.

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