



Dr. Evelyn Blose Holman
Bay Shore Superintendent: 1994 - 2011

Empty storefronts, a dilapidated main street, a failed school budget and a teacher walkout prompted Bay Shore's School's Board to seek a superintendent who could "bring a community together and improve student achievement." After the Board met with Evelyn Holman, Maryland's *Superintendent of the Year*, they enthusiastically offered her the job. Taking the helm of the Bay Shore School district in 1994 and counting on the commitment of the school board, staff and community, Dr. Holman promised that Bay Shore's schools and students would earn the pride and be the envy of other communities. She predicted national recognition for excellent academic programs and up-to-date facilities. First step was the creation of a school-sponsored Bay Shore Community Summit and Council. The Summit Council spearheaded a renaissance by helping residents, business owners, government and community leaders come together to address community and school goals. Collaboration and deliberation replaced a quagmire.

An Islip Town planner explained that the dramatic turnaround occurred "...when the new school superintendent came to town." Today, Bay Shore celebrates its award-winning school district in a revitalized town.

In honoring her retirement and community accomplishments, Islip town re-named the street in front of Bay Shore High School "Holman Avenue," and a grateful Board honored Dr. Holman by naming the high school auditorium after her, in order to thank her for her past, present and future efforts to support Bay Shore. Upon retiring, Dr. Holman formed the Evelyn Blose Holman Education Foundation for students, noting: "This remarkable school/community produces remarkable students who ensure the future of our community and nation. Working with a fine Board of Education, school staff and outstanding students provided me with many memories to treasure."

School improvement

Within the newly renovated facilities, academic excellence became a hallmark, highlighting programs of excellence. SAT scores jumped from below to well above the national and state averages. Seven Advanced Placement courses grew to twenty two. International Baccalaureate program, Media Lab, music wing and impressive Physical Education/Health Centers reflected strengthened and new opportunities for academics, arts and athletics that merited admiration across Long Island.

Collaboration and cooperation replaced once rancorous labor relations. Teachers, administrators, district office staff and support personnel worked together with the superintendent and school board, while Bay Shore parents and community members supported every single budget vote, including two bond referendums. All-day Kindergarten, Pre-K programs, extensive summer school and after-school programs were initiated. A system-wide Dress Code and Code of Conduct reflected serious intent and higher standards. New York State Education Department's video, *New York Learns*, distributed to all NY school districts, used Bay Shore as the model for leadership and success.

Prestigious awards and accomplishments include the following: four-time winner of National School Board Association's Magna Award for Annual Community Summit; School Community Collaboration; Wellness Alliance and Multi Media program; Grammy School designation to one of the top music programs in the country. The physician-sponsored Wellness Alliance was formed in collaboration with our two local hospitals, and a community-initiated Arts Council sponsored field trips to Manhattan, residencies/performances in the schools and expanded strong curricular and co-curricular offerings.

Writing awards for school yearbooks, newspapers and literary magazines poured into the district, and Bay Shore initiated stellar events such as the nationally recognized Ethnic Pen Student Writers' Conference attended by 1000 students from Bay Shore and numerous Long Island districts. Students and teachers thronged to the high school annually to hear speakers such as *Angela's Ashes* author, Frank McCourt, and other Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award recipients.



Community Action

From the beginning, Dr. Holman and the Summit Council became a catalyst for steady progress and change. During the first Summit, a packed high school auditorium heard the Suffolk County Executive promise to move a methadone clinic from Main Street. The strength of a united Bay Shore/Brightwaters resounded in the community and enabled the Summit Council, Chamber of Commerce and Bay Shore School District to speak with one voice in supporting ventures such as Touro College's relocation to Bay Shore. Dr. Holman's brainchild, the Summit Council, continues to unite community leaders. Beautification Society flower baskets in summer, the Memorial Garden and the Chamber of Commerce's band shell illustrate the power of working together to enhance Main Street. Empty storefronts are a thing of the past, as new dreams are included in each Summit Council agenda.

Experience Counts: Dr. Holman's Background

With a B.S. degree from Indiana State College, her mother's alma mater, an M.Ed. and Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, Dr. Holman taught sixth grade through university level, authored/edited numerous publications and spoke at many local, state and national conferences. A History/Government teacher, principal, Curriculum Supervisor, Area Superintendent and Executive Director in Maryland's Anne Arundel and Frederick Counties, she also served for ten years as Superintendent of Wicomico County schools. Elected President of Maryland School Superintendents Association and Maryland Superintendent of the Year, she chaired numerous state committees such as The Early Learning Years Commission and taught administrative courses at the University of Maryland and Salisbury University.

Named three times to the Top School Superintendents in North American, Holman shared her experience by teaching summer classes in Community Engagement at Hofstra University and mentored new Suffolk County school superintendents for BOCES. Some of her myriad awards include the NY Senate's Woman of the Year, NY's United Teachers Friend of Education and the Council of Administrators and Supervisors Service Award. Elected to the Middle States Regional Council of the College Board and president of SCOPE Educational Services, she received the NY Alliance for Arts Education Award, Adults and Children Developmental Disabilities Educator of Excellence and the Maritime Museum's Outstanding Educator. Listed as one of Long Island's Top 50 Women, honored by Hofstra's Celebration of Diversity, Evelyn Holman also received Bay Shore's Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen Award. Serving on Town of Islip's Anti-Bias Task Force, Long Island Housing Partnership and Suffolk County's Crime Prevention Task Force, she brought additional honor to Bay Shore Schools.

