

# **2014-2015 Van Lunen Fellows Program**

## **THE COLLABORATION OF TWO SCHOOLS**

Nadean D. Sheppard, Head of School  
Providence Christian Academy  
61 Georgia Road  
Freehold, NJ 07728

School Consultant: Dr. D. Bruce Lockerbie, Chairman, Paideia, Inc.

### **WHAT DID I DO?**

I mapped out and worked through the necessary first steps that would lead to the collaboration of two Christian schools on one campus.

- Build relationships
- Pray
- Keep your Board informed
- Determine physical ability for one campus to accommodate another school
- Assure an alignment of your mission, vision and statement of faith
- Create a shared vision for the future
- Understand the organizational structure of each school
- Agree on the nature of your relationship
- Observe the other school in action
- Set up a realistic timeline
- Never minimize the risks or underestimate the opportunities

### **WHAT DID I LEARN?**

- Collaboration is possible
- Vision, structure and deadlines are necessary
- Consultants are valuable resources
- A school is only as healthy as its Board of Trustees
- Unsustainable financial situations should not be ignored
- Negativity drains the body, mind and soul

### **WHAT DIFFERENCE DID IT MAKE?**

Providence Christian Academy was forced to face reality, and thank God for the 25 years of teaching minds, touching hearts and shaping lives that it was given.