

November 2002

VITAL News

Virginia Initiative for Technology and Administrative Leadership



Register Now for DOE Conference

The annual Educational Technology Leadership Conference, now in its 8th year, will take place at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, December 3-5, 2002. The theme of this year's conference is ***Technology Planning: Putting The Pieces Together.***

A quick look at the preliminary program shows a wide variety of sessions designed for those individuals responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing educational media and technology programs.

Dr. Larry S. Anderson, founder of the National Center for Technology Planning (<http://www.nctp.com/>), will provide the keynote speech. Dr. Anderson has collaborated internationally on educational technology issues and is a respected author, reviewer, researcher, and speaker, and was selected by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment as a contributor for their landmark report to Congress, "Teachers and Technology: Making the Connection."

Dr. Timothy R. Jenney, Superintendent of Virginia Beach City Public Schools, is the featured speaker. His presentation ***Virginia Beach Schools: Technological Innovation on the Fast Track*** will discuss the strategies employed by VBCPS over the span of six years to put "technology on the fast track", despite technophobic naysayers, a budget crisis, and an extremely "limited" technology base. He was recently featured in *Technology & Learning Magazine* (http://www.techlearning.com/db_area/archives/TL/2002/06/grand.html).

Concurrent sessions will focus on SOL instruction and assessment, No Child Left Behind and data analysis, online education, special education and assistive technology and more. Be sure to stop by the Blue Ridge Board Room on Wednesday where VITAL will be doing presentations on leadership, assessment and e-learning.

You can register online now at <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Technology/conference/>. Registration deadline is November 22. Hope to see you in Roanoke!

Resources from DOE

After registering for the conference, I spent some time browsing the DOE website. Here are just a few of the resources I found:

Virginia Education eNews:

http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/E_News/

Professional Development Opportunities:

<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/profdev.html>

Raising Student Achievement: A Standards of Learning Update from the Board of Education:

http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/VA_Board/LegislativePackWeb.pdf

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Putting Research into Practice

Educational researchers and practitioners often seem to work in two very different worlds. This month, the VITAL News features a website designed to connect research and practice in meaningful ways.

CARET
Center for Applied Research in Educational Technology

The goal of The Center for Applied Research in Educational Technology (CARET) is to provide educators with research based answers to critical questions about education technology. By bridging the gap between research and practice, CARET helps practitioners make sound decisions related to educational technology planning and implementation.

Users can search for particular areas of interest or browse question topics researched by the CARET staff in the areas of student learning, curriculum and instruction, online teaching and learning, professional development, and assessment and evaluation. Here's just a small sample of questions that draw on the CARET database of research articles:

- How can technology influence student academic achievement?
- How can technology be infused into curriculum and instruction effectively?
- What can school leaders do to enable teachers to make effective use of technology?

After choosing a question or completing a search, users are provided with a summary of current research in that area. In addition, detailed reviews of many of the articles cited in the summaries are available at the CARET site. These reviews include major implications for policy makers and educators as well as educational researchers.

The amount of research into educational technology is rapidly expanding and the CARET website is an excellent way to keep track of this growing field. Visit it online at

<http://caret.iste.org/index.cfm>.

CARET is a project of the International Society for Technology in Education in collaboration with Education Support Systems and the Sacramento County Office of Education. CARET is funded with a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Why Not Start Here?

In the "old days" (just a few years ago!), accessing research meant spending hours in the library straining your eyes to read microfiche. Now, much of the research into instructional technology is available on the web.

The Impact of Education Technology on Student Achievement: What the Most Current Research Has to Say by Dr. John Schacter reviews five large-scale and several small-scale studies of educational technology. It is available online at the Milken Family Foundation

(<http://www.mff.org/publications/publications.taf?page=161>). This article is a great place to start an exploration of research. It can be downloaded and shared with faculty, school board members, and parents and aid in decision making related to educational technology.