

June 2003

VITAL News

Virginia Initiative for Technology and Administrative Leadership



Alan November

What Every Principal Needs to Know

The Hampton Roads' Principal's Center presents noted speaker Alan November. The workshop, *What Every Principal Needs to Know About Technology to Promote Student SOL Success*, will be held July 31 and August 1 from 8 AM to 3 PM at The Advanced Technology Center in Virginia Beach. Cost for the workshop is \$295 for members of the Principal's Center and \$325 for non-members.

Participants can look forward to

an informative two days improving their information literacy and research skills, learning more about the planning and budgeting process, and aligning technology to support best practices in implementing the Virginia Standards of Learning and No Child Left Behind.

Alan was named one of the Nation's 15 Most Influential Thinkers of the Decade in K-12 Technology by Classroom Computer Learning Magazine. His writings include the best-selling book, *Empowering Students With Technology*, and dozens of articles. Each participant will receive a copy of Alan's book.

As an author, designer, and practitioner, Alan has successfully guided schools to use technology to improve student learning. His use of humor, practical stories, and engaging style challenges people to see the big picture.

VITAL is pleased to offer scholarships for 7 principals who would like to attend this workshop. Simply be one of the first 7 principals to email Karen Richardson at karen@ivyrun.com and VITAL will cover the registration fee for the Alan November workshop. A brochure with additional information is attached to this email.

You can learn more about Alan November by visiting his website: <http://www.anovember.com/>

What's Online?

This month, we visited the [Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development](#) (ASCD) website to see what they have to offer. A quick tour found several worthwhile items that included:

- [A Research Brief](#): Describes a recent study by Harold Weglinsky that shows that five aspects of teacher quality do affect student achievement.
- [Taking An Online Course](#): A "course" about taking online courses
- [SmartBrief](#): A free daily news brief from ASCD sent to your inbox
- [Education Topics](#): Definitely the best part of the site, these are multimedia presentations on topics of interest to educators.

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State Technology Plan Issued

At its April 29, 2003, meeting the Virginia Board of Education approved the Educational Technology Plan for Virginia: 2003-2009.

The plan is the culmination of research, planning, and collaboration with Virginia educational technology stakeholders. The Virginia Educational Technology Advisory Committee (VETAC) and groups representing school division technology directors, school and division administrators, K-12 teachers, higher education officials, representatives from professional organizations, and members of the business community assisted in developing the plan.

The Educational Technology Plan for Virginia: 2003-2009 provides strategic direction for use of educational technology in schools and

classrooms and serves as a blueprint for school divisions as local technology plans are created. Educational Technology Plan for Virginia: 2003-2009 emphasizes the integration of technology into instruction. Use of technological tools by teachers in classrooms will motivate and engage students, enliven instruction, extend learning beyond the school, and assist with increases in student achievement. The plan provides a structure for the development of other components of an effective technology program: professional development, connectivity, and educational applications and accountability. The plan is posted on the Department of Education website at <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Techology>.

Summer Reading

Leadership on the Line

By Dr. Diane Reed

Leadership on the Line provides insightful and uplifting ideas for surviving the dangers of leading in the new millennium. Heifetz and Linsky provide example after example of leadership successes and pitfalls in both the public and private sector. Leadership, they say, "is perilous yet worthy of the costs."

Every day people face circumstances that require adjustments and internal change. This kind of change is the most painful for the organization the authors call it adaptive change. "Adaptive change forces people to question and perhaps redefine aspects of their identity; it also challenges their sense of competence." Heifetz and Linsky discuss four dangers of leadership: marginalization, diversion, attack, and seduction. These are common

One of the most important tools for leaders is to "get perspective in the midst of action." Reflecting on one's practice has been touted in higher education and practiced with the case method. Looking at a real slice of life and taking the time to reflect on one's own practice is a valuable learning tool. But in the midst of battle it is more difficult to step back and view your actions. Heifetz and Linsky call this approach "getting on the balcony."

This book provides solutions and encouragement for educators at all levels of leadership who hope to make a difference.

Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive through the Dangers of Leading
By Ronald A. Heifetz and Marty Linsky