

July 2003

# VITALNews

Virginia Initiative for Technology and Administrative Leadership



## ***NECC 2003 Report***

# **Visions & Reflections In Seattle**

The National Educational Computing Conference, otherwise known as NECC, was held in Seattle at the end of June. With workshops, concurrent sessions, multiple keynotes, poster sessions and an exhibit hall that stretched on for miles, NECC 2003 was an exciting opportunity to celebrate the past and look to the future of educational computing.

The VITAL training team presented to a packed room of over 70 attendees, sharing the success of our

professional development program. I took advantage of the wireless network set up in the Washington State Convention Center to post a message to the [VITALNews Blog](#).

The conference is presented by the [International Society for Technology in Education](#) (ISTE).

Even if you couldn't attend the conference, you can access presentations, handouts, audio recordings and video archives of the webcast sessions by visiting the [NECC 2003 website](#).

And now's the time to plan ahead: NECC 2004 will be held in New Orleans, LA, June 21-23, 2004. [Visit the website](#) to learn more. Deadline for presentation proposals is October 8, 2003. Many of your schools are successfully integrating technology in exciting, innovative ways, and you should consider sharing your stories with other educators.

## **On The Bookshelf**

I spent some time browsing in the NECC bookstore and added two new books to my reading pile. I'll review them when I have time, but for now here are the titles...

*Administrative Solutions for Handheld Technology in Schools* (Pownell and Bailey) is designed to help administrators effectively implement the use of handhelds for themselves as well as their faculty and students.

*101 Best Web Sites for Principals* (Brooks-Young) is an annotated "webliography" organized with building level administrators in mind. Detailed entries guide users to highlights and offer site descriptions.

Both books are available from the [ISTE Bookstore](#) online.

**NECC 2004**



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# Videos Feature Technology Integration

Several presentations and exhibits featured professional development resources designed to help “show” teachers how to integrate technology.

One of these resources was the [Video Classroom](#), a collection of video and radio programs documenting K-12 teachers, student teachers, faculty and administrators in real life classroom experiences. Users can search for clips, save them to a personal play list and share them with others. Each video is accompanied by transcripts, discussion questions, interviews, and links to related clips and resources.

Many clips come from the program [PT3 Now!](#) that documents efforts to help pre-service teachers learn to effectively integrate technology. Videos of teachers are accompanied by

## NAEP Writing Results Released

The results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2002 writing assessment were released on July 10. Students' average scores on the writing assessment increased between 1998 and 2002 at grades 4 and 8. However, there was no significant change detected in the average performance of twelfth-graders over the same period. You can read the entire report on line and find out how Virginia fared by [visiting the website](#).

Reading results, released in June, were mixed. You can learn more about the reading assessment and read the entire report by [visiting the website](#).

Also known as The Nation’s Report Card, NAEP has been conducting national assessments since 1969 in reading, mathematics, science, writing, U.S. history, civics, geography, and the arts.

critical analysis from a round table of experts.

Sponsored by the Northwest Educational Technology Consortium, [classrooms@work](#) presents three examples of technology integration designed for professional development. The site features detailed lessons that demonstrate how technology can support project based learning.

All three of these websites could be a valuable part of your professional development efforts as teachers work to successfully integrate technology.



**Sightseeing:** My husband and I spent a day exploring Mount St. Helens.

Nearly 25 years after its eruption, life has begun to return to the barren landscape. Elk graze in the debris avalanche and wildflowers bloom along the roadside. You can visit the [Mount St. Helens website](#) to learn more.

[Volcano World](#) includes videos and other resources. We’ll be posting pictures and videos online soon: I’ll let you know when they go up!