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July 9, 2009

Elementary Educators Build for the Future

The end of the regular school term did not mean the end of learning for 118 Central Virginia elementary educators who attended the second *Building for the Future* conference held at the MathScience Innovation Center on June 22-24. The conference stressed the need to prepare students for the future world and provided examples of how futuristic topics can be linked to *Virginia's Standards of Learning*.

Conference participants interacted with 4 keynote speakers and selected from among 77 concurrent sessions. The 2009 conference highlighted 6 major themes: mathematics, probes and sensors, integrating engineering into the sciences, integrated math and science, teaching with the web and virtual learning.

Overall, participants gave the conference a rating of 4.5 (on a 5-point scale). They plan to share conference information with 1,305 other elementary teachers and to use the information with about 7,275 elementary students during the 2009-10 school term. Here's what a few participants said about the conference:

"The conference was awesome! I really enjoyed the lessons and the take-always. I am most excited about using Moodle." -Karen Herbert, Hanover County Public Schools

"This conference allowed me to see how to incorporate technology and engineering into the curriculum . . . provided great ideas for making learning more interactive." -Charita Harris, Richmond Public Schools

"The instructors were great at explaining how concepts related to the current SOLs, where lessons could be extended, and how the weaknesses of the SOLs could be overcome using the resources provided. All of the instructors were insightful and enthusiastic, providing novel and engaging concepts which were time-efficient and effective for teaching the concepts." -Dwayne Cabaniss, Henrico County Public Schools

"Hands-on activities and collaboration with people from other districts were the strengths of the conference." -Johna Vazquez, Petersburg Public Schools

*"The conference offered many different choices that meet the needs of each participant." -
Charlene Chapman Chesterfield County Public Schools*

Initiated as part of the MathScience Innovation Center's Mission – *to be the innovator, incubator and advocate of 21st century math and science* – the conference is designed to increase educators' understanding of futuristic areas of math and science, provide models and materials which educators can immediately use within their classrooms, and promote long-term change with divisions' core curricula.

For conference attendance, educators received Continuing Education Units, instructional materials, and honoraria. Within the Center's consortium are 139 elementary schools. Participating educators from the various school districts and schools are listed below.

The attendee from **Charles City Public Schools** was Nora Adkins from Charles City Middle School.

The **17 attendees from Chesterfield County Public Schools** included: Sara Moody and Timothy Winkler from Bailey Bridge Middle School; Judith Hall from Chester Middle School; Anna Butler, Katrina Halloran and Jessica Saunders from Falling Creek Middle School; Soubia Balkhi, Matthew Parks and Dana Wilson from Manchester Middle School; Cheryn Clark from Matoaca Middle School; Lorraine Kilpatrick from Providence Middle School; Meredith Collins and Kristine Kverka from Salem Church Middle School; Carolyn Wilkerson from Tomahawk Middle School; Sandra Harris from Meadowbrook High School; Nick Bohidar and Larunatta Pollard from Monacan High School.

The **2 attendees from Colonial Heights Public Schools** were Katherine Kelley from Colonial Heights Middle School and Melinda Kelley from Colonial Heights High School.

The **18 attendees from Hanover County Public Schools** included Shelley Burnside, Janielle Lattimore, Eileen Malick, and Jeremy Watts from Atlee High School; Karen Bedall from Chickahominy Middle School; Thomas Abernethy and Thomas Boshier-Perran from Lee-Davis High School; Elizabeth Winegardner from Liberty Middle School; Erin Degnan, Ellen Hughes, David Smail and Michael Weisibrod from Oak Knoll Middle School; Patti Beach, Christine Belcher, Bryan Buckalew and Gretchen Shaw from Patrick Henry High School; Marilyn Collins from Stonewall Jackson Middle School; and Renee Simpkins from The Georgetown School.

The **19 attendees from Henrico County Public Schools** included: Elizabeth Layne from Brookland Middle School; Rachel Lawrence, Carol Pugh, and Jennifer Sower from Deep Run High School; Christine Hill from Fairfield Middle School; Dada Delano, Hope Parham and Denise Williams from Godwin High School; Wallace Ford and Nancy Nelson from Henrico High School; Eleonor Mangoma from Hermitage High School; Kathryn Brock and Michelle DeLoach from Highland Springs High School; Jason Sterlace from Tucker High School; Jeffrey Williams from John Rolfe Middle School; M. Kathleen Stansbury from Mt. Vernon Middle School; Patricia Fernandez and Ellan Smithwick from Short Pump Middle School; and Kelley Ostrom from Varina High School.

The 3 attendees from King William County Public Schools included: Michael Embrey, Instructional Leader; and Devon Ryan-Thiel and Sandra Schrader from King William High School.

The 3 attendees from Petersburg Public Schools included Carolyn Blackwell, Kim Gordon and Bernetta Thornton from Petersburg High School.

The 9 Attendees from Powhatan County Public Schools included James Dawson from Powhatan Junior High School; and Samantha Gavin, Hedy Keller, Leslie Murphy, Louis Paris, Mary Payne, Kris Stewart, Nancy Taylor, and Karen Wilson from Powhatan High School.

The 3 Attendees from Prince George Public Schools included Emily Ange and Felicia Kershaw from J.E.J. Moore Middle School; and Sandra Nicol from Prince George High School.

The 19 Attendees from Richmond Public Schools included Terri Pollard from the Adult Career Development Center; Decardra Jackson and Jennifer Poore from Henderson Middle School; Patricia Woodberry from Holton Elementary School; George Powell and Wanda Wilder from Huguenot High School, Anthony Bird, Donyelle Granderson and LaTonya Waller from Lucille Brown Middle School; Carroll Ellis from MLK, Jr. Middle School; Theodore Barnett from Oak Grove Elementary School; Ruby Holman (retired); Cheryl Kayes and Kalota Stewart from Richmond Community High School; Frances McGruder, Richmond Juvenile Detention Center; Jermaine Harris, Danica Millner and Crystal Wood from Thomas Jefferson High School; and Jonathan Smith from Thompson Middle School.

The **attendees** from other systems were: Bradley Stylman from the College of William & Mary; Karen Stringer from Poplar Springs Academy; Laura Holloway from Danville Pittsylvania County Schools; Paul Busse and Amy Hale from The Steward School.

The MathScience Innovation Center is a capacity building workforce program for K-12 educators that provides expanded opportunities to learn about emerging fields (fractal geometry, engineering, nanotechnology, environmental modeling) and effective ways to integrate within the curriculum.

Established in 1966 we are one of the oldest examples of regional partnerships in the metro Richmond area. The MathScience Innovation Center is comprised of eight school divisions: Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Hanover, Henrico, King William, Petersburg, Powhatan, and Richmond. Going into the 2009-2010 academic year, the consortium's 141 elementary, 46 middle and 37 high schools represent a range of urban, suburban, and rural schools.