

VIRGINIA SCHOOL UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP NEWSLINK

FALL 2010

VSUP.ORG



VSUP BUILDS GLOBAL EDUCATION CONNECTIONS with China

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Test Bank Coordinator
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The VSUP Board of Directors approved a new global studies initiative at their recent meeting which contained as its centerpiece seminars about China as well as travel in-country. The initiative is a continuation of the international partnerships, exchanges and professional development in which VSUP has been engaged with the addition of a new program "China as a Global Partner." The China program is a collaborative

effort among the University of Virginia College of Arts and Sciences, the Curry School of Education, the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, the Asia Institute, the Virginia School-University Partnership, and EF Educational Tours to provide individual superintendents and school division teams of superintendents, school administrators, and teachers with an understanding of the importance of the study of China to public education, as well as an understanding of the skills required of students as international citizens and as participants in a global economy and an understanding of the elements of successful international educational partnerships and how they can be developed.

Next fall 2011, the participants will be engaged in 16 hours of seminar presentations and discussions about China's history, economy, educational system, and culture during which faculty members from the Darden School of Business, the Curry School of Education, and the College of Arts and Sciences will present.

in October 2011 participants will travel to China for twelve days to participate in forums, tours and school and international corporation visits that provide them with more in-depth information about the country's economy, educational system, history, and culture. The VSUP delegation will travel as a group

Contacts will assist them. A major objective of the program is to ensure that each school division establishes a partnership with a school in the team's division and a Chinese school which the team will be visiting. The partnerships can take many forms ranging from simple email communication and blogs to international collaboration on classroom projects via satellite. The teams will visit three schools in all. To find out more information about the global studies initiative and the "China As a Global Partner" program, check the VSUP website or contact VSUP Executive Director Andy Stamp at jas8@virginia.edu.



GRANT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS

Dr. Richard Linderman, Research Professor of Physics with the UVA Department of Physics received notice of the approval of a grant for professional development for teachers in partnership school divisions. This grant is for training of teachers in Light and Optics. The NCLB proposal submitted in the spring of 2010 has been awarded and includes funds to support 24 teachers Grades K-10 to attend a one week

workshop at UVA in June 2011. Now is the recruitment time to fill up the slots. School divisions are encouraged to invite science teachers to attend the VAST Professional Development Institute. Session D-101 will be held on November 19 from 1:30-2:10 on Light and Optics and related activities contained in the summer workshop and course. Participants will try some of the experiments and learn about the work-

shop and how to apply or participate online in January. Both options will be available, as well as an opportunity to complete an application at the VAST session. titled "Light and Optics with Low-cost Materials Given by Teachers". Division contacts may also email the names and email addresses of teachers whom they know are interested to Dr. Richard Lindgren (ral5q@virginia.edu).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Dan Mulligan is leading a workshop on Strategies for Teaching the Revised History SOLS February 22, 2011 Hotel Roanoke Roanoke, Virginia

REGISTER NOW!

Fall Workshops focus on Active Engagement, Literacy, Writing and Advanced Placement Professional Development



Ron Nash Workshop

DECEMBER DATES

Steering Committee

December 9 9:00

8:30 Book Discussion

ALBEMARLE RESOURCE CENTER

Board of Directors

December 14

10:00 AM

RUFFNER ROOM 200

Planning for the Summer Leadership Conference 2011 has begun.

Watch our next newsletter for more information.

The VSUP series of professional development conferences for this year got off to a great start on October 6th with Ron Nash’s “**Gotta Move, Gotta Share: Life in the Active Classroom.**” Ron kept the twenty-seven participants from six different school divisions actively engaged throughout the workshop with his energy, positive attitude, and use of humor, music, and a variety of hands-on activities. Focusing on the VAK Predicates (visual, auditory, and kinesthetic), Ron modeled how to get students deeply involved in their own learning. His philosophy is that we teach people, not content, so he helped workshop participants to develop their ability to build relationships and actively influence the flow of communication in the classroom. Conference attendees were particularly impressed with strategies such as “Chief of Staff Editing” and various partner and group collaboration activities which they felt could be easily incorporated into their classrooms.

Virginia Bowerman’s October 22nd workshop “The Principal’s Role in Ensuring a Strong Literacy Program” was very positively received by the eighteen attendees who in-

cluded teachers and literacy specialists as well as principals for elementary and secondary schools from seven different divisions. Conference participants particularly appreciated the wealth of research-based information they received as well as strategies and other resources that could easily be passed along to others in their schools. They also responded enthusiastically to the opportunity to share ideas and ask questions of colleagues as well as the focus on data-driven support for student learning. The conference was quite successful in fulfilling its goal of helping participants learn how to develop a vision and initiate change in the culture of their schools through Literacy Leadership Teams.

In November, VSUP is sponsoring two conferences focused on writing.

On November 10th at The University of Virginia, Jane Hansen and Mo Gaffney--the directors of The Central Virginia Writing Project--will present “Writing Matters: Improving Student Writing.” The goal of this workshop is to help teachers at all levels (preK through high school) embed the Virginia Standards of Learning into their curriculum and enhance their skills as teachers of the writing process. The role of conferencing,

the use of supportive responses, the study of mentor texts, and the development of mini-lessons based on students’ strengths and needs will all be covered through a number of hands-on activities that actively engage conference participants.

On November 12th, at the Emmet Street Holiday Inn, VSUP is sponsoring “Acing the A.P.’s: Teaching Writing for Advanced Placement Tests.” Patricia Vandever, Scovie Martin, and Jennifer Sublette, who have over sixty years of combined experience teaching A.P. classes, will share assignments, grading rubrics, and activities that they have used in their classrooms and will discuss how their experiences as A.P. graders have shaped their instruction. In addition to finding out what graders look for in A.P. essays, participants in the conference will have a chance to practice scoring actual samples of student writing. Small subject-area group discussions will also give workshop participants the opportunity to learn from each other by sharing their own classroom experiences.

-Contributed by Liza Scallet, VSUP Conference Coordinator

VSUP LEADERS FOCUS ON REVISED MATH SOLS AND 21ST CENTURY TEACHING AND LEARNING

Vickie Inge, math coordinator, for the UVA School of Continuing and Professional Studies provided the VSUP Steering Committee on October 7 with an update on math knowledge, skills, and processes needed in today’s schools. Through her presentation “Improving Math Instruction Over Time”, Inge emphasized the need to focus on long-term, sustained staff development for math teachers. Emphasizing the urgency of understanding and applying math process skills, Inge noted the importance of building math programs which not only address knowledge level competencies, but also include practice in higher order thinking and problem solving. Inge will address the VSUP Board of Directors on December 14. Michael Bolling, Math Specialist for the Virginia Department of Education, will be the guest speaker at the December 9 Steering Committee (Professional Development Consortium) Meeting. School division representatives may bring math specialists or other guests to this meeting.