



VIRGINIA SCHOOL UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP NEWSLINK

SUMMER 2010

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Thinking Critically, Planning Purposefully: Leadership for the Next Generation

Partnership School Leaders Attend 2010 Summer Leadership Conference



One hundred eighty-five school leaders attended the 2010 VSUP Summer Leadership Conference held at William Monroe High School in Stanardsville, Virginia on June 25, 2010. Twenty one partnership school divisions were represented at this year's conference.

Well known keynoters Carol Ann

Tomlinson and Dan Mulligan addressed the theme "Thinking Critically, Planning Purposefully: Leadership for the Next Generation" by providing theoretical and relevant methodology on preparing students for performance – based assessments using 21st Century instructional models.

Dr. Tomlinson's presentations focused on changes needed in current instructional models and encouraged school leaders to build the urgency for deep learning.

Dr. Mulligan challenged school leaders to apply new ideas and instructional

tools to motivate students to problem solve and think critically. Each speaker provided workshop participants with opportunities for collaboration with colleagues and practice in using new skills through applied learning experiences during the conference.



Ron Nash Workshop Planned for October 6, 2010 "Gotta Move, Gotta Share: the Active Classroom"

See Registration information inside newsletter!

Ron Nash, author of the best-selling book, *The Active Classroom*, will present an engaging workshop for teachers, administrators, coaches, and instructional specialists on October 6, 2010 at the Charlottesville Holiday Inn, Emmet Street.

Nash received his B.S. and M.A. in education from Clarion University. His experience includes teaching at the

middle and high school levels. He served as a curriculum coordinator and specialist in professional development for Virginia Beach City Public Schools. Nash has trained thousands of educators in such topics as classroom management, relationship building, instructional strategies, and process management.

During the October work-

shop, Nash will demonstrate methods that will help teachers share the work load with students by using engaging activities which will enhance classroom management and be used in classrooms at all levels.

The workshop will include opportunities for participants to move, share, laugh and learn, while expanding instructional skills..

VSUP SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2010-11 *Liza Scallet*

For the 2010-2011 school year, the Virginia School University Partnership plans to offer a series of workshops which address topics of importance to teachers, instructional leaders, and administrators. The tentative schedule of professional development opportunities is based on the goals established last spring by the Steering Committee for the Consortium.

When the Steering Committee meets on October 7, 2010, we will finalize the agenda for professional development opportunities throughout the year, so we encourage you to suggest topics that would be of interest in your school division.

Scheduled VSUP Professional Development Workshops for 2010-2011:

Presenter: Ron Nash

Topic: The Active Classroom: Strategies that Maximize Student Engagement

Audience: Teachers, Teacher Leaders, Administrators

Date: October 6, 2010 Location: Holiday Inn, Charlottesville Time: 8:30 - 3:30

Presenter: Virginia Bowerman

Topic: What Principals Need to Know and Do in Literacy Instruction - A Reading Workshop for Secondary Administrators -Audience: Middle and High School Principals and Assistant Principals; Instructional Leaders

Date: October 22, 2010 Location: Holiday Inn, Charlottesville Time: 8:30 - 3:30

Presenter: Dan Mulligan

Topic: How to Teach Social Studies SOLs for Students' Understanding

Audience: Teachers, Instructional Specialists, Administrators

Date: February 22, 2010 (K - US History); February 23, 2010 (US I and II and End of Course) Location: Hotel Roanoke, Roanoke Time: 8:30 - 3:30

Student Leadership Conference

Audience: Student Leaders from VSUP Member Schools

Date: March 10, 2011 Location: University of Virginia Time: 8:30 - 3:30

Presenter: Laurie McCullough

Topic: Teachers as Leaders Audience: Teachers, Teacher Leaders, Administrators Date: Spring

Board and Steering Committee Meetings 2010-11

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 19 December 14
February 8 May 10
*Room 200 Ruffner

STEERING COMMITTEE**

October 7 December 9
February 3 May 5
**Albemarle Resource Center



Thanks for your continuing support of VSUP.

TEST BANK SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR 2010-11 SCHOOL YEAR *JENINE DALEY, Coordinator*

Test Bank Workgroups for Math 5,6 and 8, US History 1 and 11, and Grade 3 Reading will meet on the following dates: September 29, October 27, January 26, and February 23. Jenine Daley, Test Bank Coordinator for 2010-11, will contact Steering Committee members for recommendations and revisions to the workgroup lists from the previous year. Also, representatives from all school divisions using the test items are requested to send draft test items to Jenine Daley or enter draft items into the IA platform prior to each meeting.

EDUCATORS SHARE EXPERIENCES OF EDUCATION IN GLOBAL CULTURE OF INDIA-

The education leaders training at the India Institute of Technology in Delhi was sponsored by the Oberoi Foundation, the Mira Model School in Delhi and VSUP. It took place June 5-12, 2010.

Ken Pursell, Assistant Principal, William Monroe Middle School, Greene County Public Schools

This summer, I had the unique experience of visiting India in order to participate in a leadership conference at the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi. During this trip, our group was fortunate enough to visit three slum schools of Delhi along with The Mira Model School. Each of these schools was unique in their own way, but evident in each school was the student pride and dedication to their school. The students attending the summer programs were eager to speak and show us what they were doing and what they were learning. To me, this eagerness and excitement to demonstrate what they have learned and accomplished is what permanently resonates in my mind.

The small sample of schools and small sample of students we saw within each school clearly showed how well the education system in India does with their limited resources. Their ability to enhance the 21st Century Skills such as initiative, self-direction, social and cross-cultural skills, collaboration, communication, and creativity, allows the students to be confident members of society. Witnessing this first hand, made me realize that we may talk about how much we do to improve our students' 21st Century Skills, but in comparison, we have a long way to go to reach the levels I witnessed in India. There are times when I think I am being too harsh on our own schools and systems, but when I actively think through my experiences I continuously come to the same conclusion. We must continue to effectively engage our students in an education that will prepare them to be global citizens.

Roger D. Dunnick, Assistant Principal, Nelson County High School-

Upon our arrival in India I was pleased to discover that the weather was not as hot as expected (a prayer definitely answered). The potential issues with food, mosquitoes, heat exhaustion and finding potable water that I had thought we would encounter were relatively non-existent. This does not mean however that I was not impacted by my journey. The truth is that I was quite affected by the entire experience. From the travel (I have seldom flown and certainly not this far) to the immersion in a distant culture, I was taken aback by much of what I saw.

Prior to heading to India, I had some real misconceptions about exactly what it was that I would experience. I knew that there would be some culture shock. I also knew from my reading that India was a country on the move; especially in the field of technology. I had imagined a burgeoning education system complete with the marvels of modern technology. This I believed was the foundation of India's recent development. What I did not expect, nor could I have prepared myself for, was the depth of poverty that I would witness.

The streets of Delhi were filled with an extremely noisy combination of animal, man and machine. Many of the buildings seemed in disrepair and there was an industrial aroma that I'm not sure I will ever completely forget. I saw children in the streets and on the sidewalk cooking corn cobs in a crude frying apparatus. The list could go on and I still could not explain the sheer poverty that was visible at every turn. The most heartbreaking moment of the trip came when we visited the Deepayala school which served a local slum area. The walk leading to the school was lined with trash and covered by lime. The building was adjacent to the slum that it served and as we visited the upper level of the school, we saw a monkey resting on the ledge of the roof. The inside of the school however, changed my view of education forever.

Inside the school we saw inspirational sayings posted at every turn. We witnessed 3rd and 4th graders working on beautiful art projects. Next to the art classroom were children watching a video on vultures. Second and third grade students were learning English. We were even fortunate enough to be serenaded by a group of preschool students. The atmosphere inside that building did not match the physical condition of its surroundings. Education was happening. Children were learning and seeming to be having fun in the process. It became obvious to me that education is not simply found in the technological advances that we desire in America but rather, education is more often a gift given to children by loving teachers and administrators. Despite the abject poverty that was so prevalent in this part of India, adults had decided that these children were worthy of the best education that they could provide. Despite the conditions, these children were learning. With such care and love given to the children, combined with technological prowess and a desire to advance, I can only imagine that India will ascend to the ranks of the dominant countries on earth in the very near future. There seems to be a real understanding in India of the need for education to be the foundation of this climb from a developing to a developed nation. Finally, I was moved to great emotion when we were about to leave the school. On our way out, we were met by two of the little girls that we had fawned over in the art room. They had a gift for us. Each girl presented a member of our party with a colored picture and a wrapped gift. These children were giving us a gift! I could not believe it. The spirit and the soul of these children were amazing. They wanted to show us their appreciation for our visit. I cannot begin to describe how this made me feel other than to say that I was deeply moved by the gesture and will never forget it. For that matter, I will never forget India or the great people that took such wonderful care of their American friends that week.

