



## SUMMER 2011 VSUP LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PLANNED

### VSUP PARTNERS

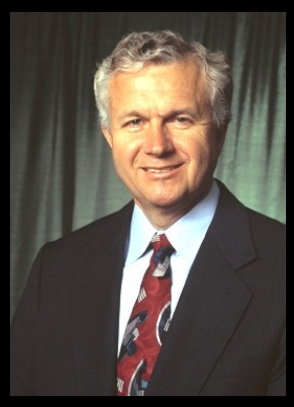
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Staunton City  
Warren  
Waynesboro  
Winchester  
Curry School of Education  
University of Virginia

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**Test Bank Coordinator**  
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The VSUP Summer Academy for school administrators will be held on June 24, 2011 at the Emmet Street Holiday Inn, in Charlottesville, Virginia. The theme for the 2011 Conference is "Using the Newly Revised Teacher Performance Standards to Improve Your Teacher Evaluation System" .” The focus is on building a teacher evaluation model from the ground

up (using the Virginia Teacher Evaluation model.) As keynote presenter for this year’s conference, Dr. James Stronge will provide participants with tools to adapt and implement the Virginia Teacher Evaluation Prototype. The presentation will include the application of research-based teacher evaluation tools through hands-on activities.

Dr. Stronge, a Heritage Professor in the Educational Policy, Planning, and Leadership Area at the College of William and Mary has extensive experience in researching policy and practice related to teacher quality, and teacher and administrator evaluation. He has worked with numerous school districts and other

educational organizations to design and implement evaluation systems for teachers, administrators, and support personnel. His work on effective teachers focuses on how to identify effective teachers and how to enhance teacher effectiveness.

Workshop goals include providing participants with the tools to build research-based teacher evaluation systems that include the following distinguishing characteristics:

- ◆ Benchmark behaviors for each of the performance expectations
- ◆ Focus on the relationship between teacher performance and improved student academic achievement

on connecting teacher performance to student achievement

- ◆ A procedure for conducting performance reviews that stresses accountability, promotes professional improvement, and increases teacher involvement in the evaluation process.

Registration information for the 2011 Summer Leadership Academy is on page 4 of the newsletter and available on the VSUP website at vsup.org or by contacting Liza Scallet, conference coordinator at Liza Scallet at ebs8u@virginia.edu.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!  
June 24, 2011**

**REGISTER NOW !**

## CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY TEACHER WINS CHINA SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

Carly Nicholson, an 11<sup>th</sup> grade English and creative writing teacher at Charlottesville High School, was selected from fifteen VSUP teachers and administrators who applied for the VSUP/EF Education First Scholarship to China. Carly will be traveling to China in late June with 19 other teachers from the U.S. She will travel to the cities of Beijing, Xi’an, and Shanghai where she will visit schools and see the Great Wall, the Forbid-

den City and the Terracotta Warriors to name a few historical sites.

In completing the answer to the application question on how she would use her experience to benefit her students, Carly responded, “If I had the chance to visit China, the first things I would pack in my suitcase would be several notebooks, contact cards, and a camera, so I could be prepared for a well-documented trip where I initiate as many partnerships as possible.”

She continued, “My mission is to teach my students the expansive nature of their outside world, while at the same time to provide them the skills they can use to maintain a sense of “community” while traversing the unknown by focusing on collaboration, communication, and critical thinking skills.”

Carly claims that her travel experience single-handedly has been the most formative aspect of her life.

Of this experience she said that, “Before traveling, my philosophy used to be ‘Just be yourself.’ After traveling, my new philosophy is ‘Put yourself in situations where you can’t be yourself and see what you learn about yourself.”

Carly said that this philosophy has translated directly to her teaching. “I take risks, learn as much as I can about the many cultures of my students, and teach them open-mindedness,” she claimed. Carly has been teaching at CHS for four years.

## VSUP CONDUCTS NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR 2011-2012

VSUP's **Draft** Professional Development Plan for 2011-12 will be presented for adoption at the May 10, 2011 Joint Meeting of the Steering Committee and Board of Directors.

The draft plan has been prepared from the Needs Assessment conducted through discussions at the February Steering Committee and Board of Directors Meetings.

Participants identified the following key areas for professional development workshops and conferences for the coming year:

- ◆ A system of documenting teacher performance based
- ◆ Improving Instruction through Teacher Evaluation with a focus on Virginia's Growth Model for Teacher Evaluation
- ◆ 21st Century/Higher-Order Thinking Skills with an emphasis on creating authentic assessments, project-based learning, and using higher level questioning techniques in instruction and assessment
- ◆ Content –specific

Workshops featuring the New Math Standards and Revised Math Assessments; Application Models for Classroom Teachers in Algebra I, Word Problems, Multiplication and Division; and Workshops for Student Reading and Writing and for addressing the Social Studies Assessments

- ◆ Graduation Rates and Closing the Achievement Gap Workshops directed toward college and career readiness and developing Academic Career Plans for Students
- ◆ On-line Course Develop-

ment– Suggested workshops include *How to Get an On-line Course Started in Your School Division*

- ◆ Test Item Bank Development is planned to continue next year with an emphasis on the new standards in History, math for grades 3 and 4, and the initiation of test bank questions to address the new technology enhanced items and higher order thinking.

The draft plan will be sent to board members with the May Agenda for review

### ATTENTION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AND  
STEERING COMMITTEE

Joint Meeting  
May 10, 2010  
Bravaro Hall UVA  
10:00 AM  
Guest: Reggie Fox  
On-line Learning  
Coordinator, York  
County Schools  
*How to Develop Virtual  
Courses in Your  
School Division*

### TEST BANK WORKGROUP REVISES/ ADDS ITEMS

More than 40 teachers from partner school divisions have worked during 2010-11 to revise and add items to the VSUP Test Item Bank. Workgroups focused on re-alignment of math and social studies test bank questions with the revised standards in these subject areas. In other subject areas, additional questions have been written and vetted during meetings. Complete information on the number of items and alignment with SOL bullets is available at

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0AtGhYEIz8O1adHM0UWZERIiRSaU12SFhBSkh1ektuZHc&hl=en&authkey=CLL3IKwN>

Appreciation is expressed to teachers who prepared and reviewed questions. Additional information, log-in access, and responses to questions regarding the VSUP Test item Bank may be obtained from Jenine Daly, VSUP Test Bank Coordinator at jmp3v@virginia.edu.

### MANY ATTEND SPRING WORKSHOPS– STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

#### SUMMARY OF VSUP CONFERENCES for SPRING of 2011

**Guiding Your Students to Higher Achievement on the New History SOL** was presented by Dr. Dan Mulligan at The Hotel Roanoke on February 22<sup>nd</sup> (K – 6) and on February 23<sup>rd</sup> (7 – high school). This activity-based workshop featured the latest information on the impact of revisions to Virginia's History SOL. Participants became familiar with SOL changes, new expectations for student understanding, ideas for revision of existing assessments, and new instructional strategies related to the challenges presented by the requirements of the new SOL

and related yearly testing in History.

The **Annual Student Leadership Conference** was held on Thursday, March 10th at Ruffner Hall on The University of Virginia campus. Teams of student leaders from each of the VSUP member schools came together to work on improving their schools and their own individual skills as leaders. After an opening keynote address by Dr. Jerry Teplitz, a motivational speaker who has given over 1700 presentations on Brain Performance Optimization, students will spent the rest of the day in small group discussions focused on the issues that they have identified as important in their schools. This conference, which is FREE to all VSUP high schools, has been very popular and effective every year in bringing together students from all across Central Virginia and enabling them to share ideas and learn from each other.

**Teachers as School Leaders and Coaches** – a two-part workshop by Dr. Laurie McCullough – was held on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> and also is scheduled for Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at The Holiday Inn on Emmet Street in Charlottesville. The focus of these workshops is on enhancing the personal coaching and negotiation skills of participants and on addressing the most important aspects of leading change, such as goal-definition, building consensus, managing decision-making, and measuring and celebrating progress. Specific tools coaches use for planning, organization, and communication are shared. Case studies and reflective practice groups are used to generate recommended actions in challenging coaching situations and participants will compare three models of coaching and assess the applicability of each to their own roles.

**Writing Across the Curriculum in PreK – Second Grade**, led by Jane Hansen and Kateri Thunder from the Central Virginia Writing Project, was held on Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bavaro Hall on the grounds of the University of Virginia. This workshop is for teachers and instructional leaders who are interested in using writing to enhance instruction across the curriculum, PreK – 2. Participants engaged in writing exercises in order to experience how writing can be used to teach mathematics, science, and social studies, as well as language arts. Workshop participants were exposed to current children’s literature and a variety of websites to learn about different formats that writers use when they write across the curriculum. Participants stretched their ideas of what it means to write well, learn about instructional processes that the presenters have seen work in local classrooms, and see writing by young writers who are excited about their work.

**Teaching Mathematics in the 21st Century** which was held on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Holiday Inn on Emmet Street in Charlottesville, was led by Vickie Inge, Director of the University of Virginia’s Office of Mathematics Outreach, and Megan Murray, Project Director for PCRRC: A Process Standards Approach to Build Bridges from Arithmetic to Algebraic Thinking, Grades 4-6 Grant. This conference, intended for teachers of mathematics in grades four through seven, focused on helping students make the transition from Arithmetic to Algebra. The presenters addressed the new SOL process standards – multiple representations, justification and proof, problem solving, making connections, and communication – making explicit what the new Mathematics Standards are looking for and why these concepts and skills are important for all students to acquire. Workshop participants had the opportunity to work with various math tasks that they can take back to their classrooms to help their students to explore the connections between Arithmetic and Algebra and to handle the increasingly rigorous demands of the new Math Standards.

**Asia’s Place in the World History Curriculum: Lesson Planning for Teachers** was scheduled for Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at The Holiday Inn on Emmet Street in Charlottesville. This workshop, led by faculty from the Asia Institute at UVA and local practicing high school teachers, focused on examination of ways in which Asia fits into the curriculum of World History I, World History II, A.P World History, A.P. European History, and A.P. Human Geography. The focus was developing a deeper understanding of the wide variety of religions, the role of political institutions, and the influence of the diverse cultures in East Asia and South Asia both on historical interactions and in contemporary events. The goal of the conference was to give teachers the tools and resources they need to frame this content in order to make it accessible to students. This workshop was offered with the assistance of the generous contributions of the Asia Institute’s Outreach Program, -Liza Scallet, VSUP Conference Coordinator

**WELCOME...**

**NEW VSUP PARTNERS: NOTTOWAY, PRINCE EDWARD, AND GREENSVILLE !**

**VIRGINIA SCHOOL UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP**  
**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP - JUNE 24, 2011**  
**8:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.**  
**EMMET STREET HOLIDAY INN, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA**

**USING THE NEWLY REVISED TEACHER PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**  
**TO IMPROVE YOUR TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEM**  
*Presented by Dr. James Stronge*



How can teacher evaluation provide both professional growth opportunities and performance accountability? What research-based performance standards and scoring rubrics should be used in evaluating teachers? How can multiple data sources be included in a practical manner? This workshop is designed to provide participants with tools to adapt and implement the Virginia Teacher Evaluation Prototype. The workshop will feature the application of research-based teacher evaluation tools through hands-on activities. Additionally, the session will focus on how Virginia's Student Growth Percentile scores work and how they can be applied to teacher evaluation.

Dr. James H. Stronge has been a teacher, counselor, and district-level administrator, and is now the Heritage Professor in the Educational Policy, Planning, and Leadership area at the College of William and Mary. The author or editor of twenty-two books, he has presented at state, national, and international conferences and has worked extensively with local school districts on issues related to teacher effectiveness, teacher selection, and teacher and administrator evaluation.

The primary goal of the workshop is to provide superintendents, principals, assistant principals, and lead teachers with the tools to build a research-based teacher evaluation system that includes applying benchmark behaviors for the seven teacher standards in Virginia's revised Uniform Performance Standards for Teachers; designing a system for documenting teacher performance based on multiple data sources; focusing on the relationship between teacher performance and improved student academic achievement;

**Additional Information:**

Visit [www.vsup.org](http://www.vsup.org)  
 Or Contact

**Liza Scallet**  
 Conference Coordinator, VSUP  
[ebs8u@virginia.edu](mailto:ebs8u@virginia.edu)  
**Dr. Janice Marston**  
 Director, VSUP Professional  
 Development Consortium  
[jnmarston@aol.com](mailto:jnmarston@aol.com)  
**Andy Stamp**  
 Executive Director, VSUP  
[jas8s@virginia.edu](mailto:jas8s@virginia.edu)

Workshop Cancellation Policy: Please try to find a substitute if you are unable to attend this event. You may cancel 5 days in advance of the event without penalty. If you cancel less than 5 days in advance, you will be billed in full.

**Send Registration to:**

**Peggy Powell**  
 VSUP #149, 265 Turkey Sag Trail  
 Suite 102  
 Palmyra, VA 22963  
 Email: [pdm2e@virginia.edu](mailto:pdm2e@virginia.edu)  
 Fax (309-431-7583)

**Workshop Registration**

**"Building a Teacher Evaluation System from the Ground Up"**

**\$99 VSUP Members**  
**\$139 Non-Members**  
**Breakfast and Lunch Provided**  
*Registration Deadline - June 3, 2011*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Order  Check  Member  Non-member

You may send purchase order or check **NOW** to reserve your space for the June 24 workshop.



Overnight accommodations may be made directly with The Holiday Inn at (434) 977-7700.