



Congratulations!

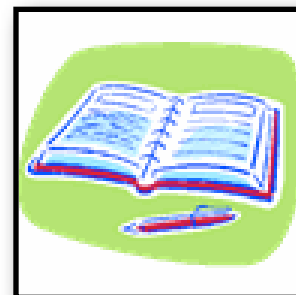
Each year, the Virginia Department of Education honors eight educational technology leaders from across the state. The award, given at the annual leadership conference in December, recognizes winners for their success in using technology to enhance teaching and learning.

The winners included:

- Mohammad Omar Barbarji, technology education teacher for West Point Public Schools, Region Three
- Ernie C. Conner Jr., director of technology for Mecklenburg County Public Schools, Region Eight
- Denise Dawson, director of business and technology for Harrisonburg Public Schools, Region Five
- Dr. Sharon D. Dodson, division superintendent for Henry County Public Schools, Region Six
- John Hendron, instructional technology specialist for Goochland County Public Schools, Region One
- Jeffrey S. Shelton, director of technology for Bristol Public Schools, Region Seven
- Georgianna Skinner, director of technology for Hampton Public Schools, Region Two
- Dr. Edgar B. Hatrick III, division superintendent for Loudoun County Public Schools, Region Four

Two other awards were given at the conference. The Virginia Department of Education Award was presented to Pamela A. Currey for her previous work as deputy secretary of finance for Governor Mark R. Warner and as legislative fiscal analyst with the Senate Finance Committee. The Virginia Educational Technology Advisory Committee (VETAC), which advises the Virginia Board of Education on educational technology, also presented its 2006 VETAC Leadership Award to Dr. James Carroll, a special projects administrator in the department of information services with Arlington Public Schools.

Leaders like these help make a real difference in the lives of our students. Congratulations..and thank you for your hard work!



Hendron was also recognized as the state award winner.

Conference

Calendar

The best place to look for educational technology conferences is at T.H.E. Journal (<http://www.thejournal.com/>). Their searchable calendar is a comprehensive guide to national and international conferences. In this space, we'll be featuring conferences of particular interest to Virginia educators.

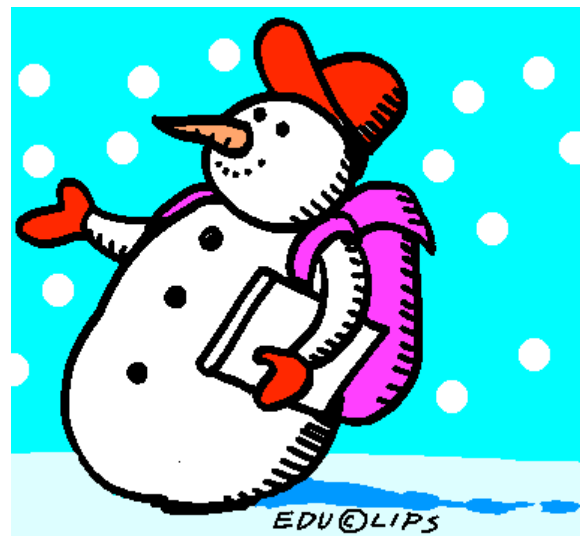
Florida Educational Technology Conference: January 24-26, 2007, Orlando, Florida. It's not too late to register for this amazing technology conference. It's almost as big as NECC with educators from all over the world. Visit the website for more information: <http://www.fetc.org/index.cfm>

EdTech 2007: February 7-8, 2007, Randolph Macon College, Ashland, Virginia. Sponsored by WCVE-TV, this two-day conference is designed for all K-12 educators including administrators, teachers, media specialists, and technology resource teachers. The conference offers hands-on workshops as well as concurrent session. Each day features a keynote speaker. Visit the website for more information: <http://www.ideastations.org/teachers/conferences.html>

Virginia Society for Technology in Education: February 25-27, 2007, Virginia Beach Convention Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Designed for teachers, this conference focuses on instructional uses of technology. The conference features over 100 concurrent sessions and 40 hands-on workshops. The Office of Educational Technology of the Virginia Department of Education is the co-sponsor. Visit the website for more information: <http://www.vste.org/conference.html>

National Educational Computing Conference: June 24-27, 2007, Atlanta, Georgia. Thousands of educators come together once a year to talk about technology. Just amazing! And this coming year, it is close by. Plan now to send a team to this premiere educational technology conference. Visit the website for more information: <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2007/>

ED-MEDIA: World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia, and Telecommunications: June 25-29, 2007, Vancouver, BC. ED-MEDIA--World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications--is an international conference, organized by the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE). The conference spans all disciplines and levels of education and annually attracts more than 1,500 leaders in the field from over 70 countries. <http://www.aace.org/conf/edmedia/default.htm>



Electronic Handouts

As part of my quest to “live online,” I have been creating electronic handouts for my workshops and presentations using a free online wiki tool. Besides making it easier to create and maintain a page, the wiki allows users to make contributions and engage in online discussions even after the event itself is over. Here’s more about the wiki tool and some of the recent handouts.



Wikispaces

This wiki tool makes it easy to create and share pages. The free version allows multiple pages and multiple users in a public wiki space. For a modest fee, groups can have a private space that cannot be viewed by others. The WYSIWIG editor makes it easy to incorporate text, media and hyperlinks. This past semester, I used Wikispaces to create the instructional technology course I teach. You can view the site at <http://journey.wikispaces.com>.

Fifty Websites in Fifty Minutes

Chris O’Neal and I did this presentation at the recent Educational Technology Leadership Conference in Roanoke. I borrowed the idea from Susan Lerdal (<http://facstaff.law.drake.edu/susan.lerdal/>), a librarian at Drake University Law School. Chris and I focused on websites for technology leaders and administrators including links related to policy, Web 2.0, and multimedia archives: <http://witchyrichy.wikispaces.com/50sitesdoe>.

Assistive Technology on the Fly

This presentation focused on finding free or inexpensive alternatives to assistive technology including voice recognition, screen reader, and concept mapping software programs. I learned a lot while I was preparing the presentation and links to all the resources are available at the wiki page: <http://witchyrichy.wikispaces.com/assistivetechology>

Integration Handbook

I already mentioned that I used a wiki for my course this past semester. I also had my students use a wiki to develop an Integration Handbook. It includes links to lots of great resources but also has ideas for how to integrate technology into different instructional strategies and reflections about the lessons the student teachers learned about using technology in the classroom: <http://journey.wikispaces.com/IntegrationHandbook>

Good Reads



We can't be good technology ambassadors if we aren't well-informed. And with the Internet, keeping up to date has never been easier. Each month, I'll be highlighting interesting, relevant sources from research projects to government reports and ezines to bloggers.

Listening to Bill

Lately, every time I see Bill Gates, he is talking about education, one of the focus areas of the foundation he runs with his wife, Melinda. Besides funding the VITAL program, the Gates Foundation is involved in a variety of other education initiatives across the United States. Want to hear what Gates has to say about education in our country? Visit the Gates Foundation website where you can read transcripts of many speeches and view the video of Bill's now-famous speech in front of the National Governor's Association: <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/MediaCenter/Speeches/>

Just for Fun (and maybe some learning, too!)

Panoramic Views

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man. ~Benjamin Franklin

Want to experience Times Square on New Year's Eve from your computer? In fact, want to see New Year's in lots of different places like London and Rio de Janeiro? Check out Panormas.dk, Hans Nyberg's website that includes the work of Jook Leung, who specializes in Times Square. There are lots of other photographers represented as well, and there are archives from past years. Fascinating views of the world! Here's the site: <http://www.panoramas.dk/>.

