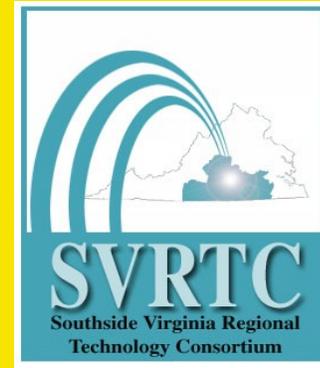


# Bits and Bytes

Southside Virginia Regional  
Technology Consortium

Volume 2 Number 2  
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## SVRTC Second Annual Awards

The SVRTC Second Annual Awards Banquet took place at Longwood University on March 19, 2008. The keynote speaker Aneesh Chopra, Secretary of Technology for the Commonwealth of Virginia, shared a powerful message and gave encouraging words to SVRTC members. Other special guests included Senator Frank Ruff, Dr. Patricia Cormier, Dr. Wayne McWee, and Dr. Deneese Jones.

Chad Wollenburg from Mecklenburg County Schools received the Technology Leadership Award. Dinwiddie County and Patrick County both received the Division Technology Awards. Congratulations!

The Division Teacher Awards were presented by Christie Clarke. These outstanding educators were recognized and presented with a plaque.

Amelia: Lisa Landa  
Appomattox: Freda Layne  
Brunswick: Krystle Elder  
Charlotte: William Collins  
Colonial Heights: Tammy Fryar  
Cumberland: Kimberly Hailey  
Danville: Joyce Culley  
Dinwiddie: Ann Flynn  
Halifax: Gary Chesbro  
Hopewell: Alex Salas  
Lunenburg: Martha Wilson  
Martinsville: Leanne Hankins  
Mecklenburg: Susan Carroll  
Nottoway: Mary Ellen Yeatts  
Patrick: Deborah Blackwell  
Pittsylvania: Elizabeth Bailess  
Prince George: Sherri Jones  
Southampton: Patty Collins  
Sussex: Edith Massenburg

### Upcoming SVRTC Events

- Beyond Stem- April 16<sup>th</sup> Longwood University, 8:30 -3:45, Registration \$20
- Southside Virginia Competes Guidance Summit- April 17<sup>th</sup> Longwood University, 8:30-3:45, Registration \$20
- SVRTC Meeting- April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Technical program to discuss Windows vs Vista

### SVRTC

606 Broad Street Suite C  
P O Box 794  
South Boston, VA 24592  
[www.svrtc.org](http://www.svrtc.org)

## Scenes from the Awards Banquet



Martha Eagle was recognized for her service and dedication to SVRTC. She is pictured with Aneesh Chopra.



Liz Jamerson introduced the Keynote Speaker, Aneesh Chopra, Secretary of Technology for the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Aneesh Chopra presented an insightful look into the future of education and technology in Virginia and in our nation.



NETS\*T Certification recipients were recognized at the SVRTC Awards Banquet

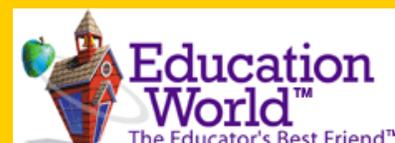
### NETS\*T Certified

Congratulations to Wendy Ezell, Mecklenburg County, Kelly Goscinski and Betty Spiers, Dinwiddie County and Debra Quesenberry, Patrick County for completing the requirements for *National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers* (NETS\*T) certification through the *Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium* (SVRTC) and the *James Madison University/Microsoft Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills*. This achievement is nationally and internationally recognized as the pinnacle of proficiency in technology integration, having received the *Seal of Alignment* from the *International Society for Technology Education* (ISTE) in 2007. NETS\*T certification for an Instructional Technology Resource Teacher (ITRT) is considered the equivalent of *National Board Certification* for classroom teachers.

### Web Resources



Enjoy an interactive learning experience as you see thousands of hand-selected and relevant links to pictures, artifacts, manuscripts, documents and other primary sources, IN CONTEXT, within each story. The first eight chapters of every story are available to all.  
<http://www.awesomestories.com/>



Teacher Tools and Templates  
[http://www.educationworld.com/tools\\_templates/index.shtml#templates](http://www.educationworld.com/tools_templates/index.shtml#templates)

## Southside Virginia Represented at National Supercomputing Conference in Reno, Nevada

Dr. Manorama Talaiver, Director of the Institute for Teaching through Technology and Innovative Practices of Longwood University (ITTIP), and Bill Wilson, Senior Technology Engineer for the Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium (SVRTC), recently participated in the National Supercomputing conference held in Reno, Nevada. As recipients of grants provided to select educators, Dr. Talaiver and Bill were able to participate in the educational track of the conference. For four days the two participated in intense training on ways to incorporate and blend computational methods into science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM).

One of the prime focuses of the conference was on the documented improvements of students that utilized computational and applied methods with their courses in controlled studies conducted at various institutions. Dr. Talaiver observed that the end result provided compelling evidence that Virginia needs to evolve its K-12 education and begin to blend the math and science disciplines through the use of computational sciences. This theme was repeated over and over throughout the week during the conference and its sessions. Together, Dr. Talaiver and Bill developed and presented a proposal to the SC07 committees to host a computational sciences summit for Virginia. The summit, called *Virginia Competes: Envisioning the Future of STEM in K-12 Environment*, will include participation on day 1 by STEM teachers, and day 2 by K-12 counselors. This summit is being sponsored by the ITTIP of Longwood University on April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please call 434-517-0717.

Bill attended the technology track for SC07 and experienced the latest trends in grid and parallel computing. Bill stated that "Supercomputing technologies have

traditionally been seen as complicated and unattainable in Southside Virginia schools. However, in reality, grid and parallel computing are well within the reach of our consortium's members. Grid computing, which takes advantage of the unused microprocessor cycles of idle desktops and laptops, can be established within institutions without compromising the security for those machines. When configured properly the grid software can run in the background of a computer without negatively affecting its performance." Bill believes grid computing could be implemented with the SVRTC's existing technology at some point in the future.

The concepts of computational sciences combined with supercomputers gives K-12 students the ability to create models of complex structures in chemistry, biology, natural phenomenon such as tornadoes, characteristics of wind and fluid, and other models that cannot be processed in a timely manner on a single high performance personal computer. Grid and parallel supercomputers currently exist in outside institutions that could be made accessible through the use of broadband networks like the one currently being developed by the SVRTC and the SVHEC. Phase I of the Southern Virginia Educational Network (SVEN) was implemented by the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC) and its partners, including the SVRTC. Phase I was demonstrated to former Governor Mark Warner and Secretary of Technology Aneesh Chopra in September 2007 and validated the SVEN network concept by providing a flawless demonstration. Phase I currently includes several higher education sites with more sites coming on-line in the future.

Phase II of SVEN, an SVRTC project, involves the expansion of the SVEN network concept to include K-12 schools in Southern

Virginia. SVEN, utilizing the Mid-Atlantic Broadband Cooperative's fiber backbone, will provide SVRTC school divisions much more reliable connectivity and integrity with higher bandwidth possibilities at lower costs. Connections between schools will occur with one network hop (switch) thereby

eliminating latency and jitter that are detrimental factors to successful voice over IP (VoIP) applications. Additional services like High Definition video conferencing and HD video streaming can also operate at their highest efficiency using the SVEN network.



**RICHMOND** – Governor Timothy M. Kaine today announced that 89 Virginia public schools have met the rigorous criteria required to earn the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence. The award is the highest honor under a new incentive program for schools and school divisions created by the Board of Education to advance Governor Kaine's "competence to excellence" agenda.

"Students in these schools are soaring far beyond the minimum requirements of the Standards of Learning and No Child Left Behind," said Governor Kaine. "It speaks to the strength of public education in the Commonwealth that the 89 schools that have earned this distinction include schools in rural, suburban and urban communities and schools in every part of the state." The 89 schools earning the Governor's Award for Educational Excellence will each receive a display banner and a signed

## **GOVERNOR KAINE ANNOUNCES AWARDS FOR HIGH-PERFORMING VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

resolution of commendation from Governor Kaine.

Nineteen school divisions and 475 schools earned the Board of Education's VIP Excellence Award, the second-tier honor in the VIP program.

These schools and divisions also have met all state and federal accountability benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and have made significant progress toward goals for increased student achievement and expanded educational opportunity set by Governor Kaine and the Board of Education.

Twenty-five school divisions and 322 schools earned the Board of Education's VIP Competence to Excellence Award. This award recognizes schools and districts that have met all state and federal benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and are making progress toward VIP objectives reflecting the goals of Governor Kaine and the Board.

To view a list of the 19 school divisions and 475 schools earning the Board of Education's VIP Excellence Award, visit the Virginia Department of Education Web site:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/info\\_centers/newsroom/news\\_releases/2008/jan10a.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/info_centers/newsroom/news_releases/2008/jan10a.shtml).

For a list of the 25 school divisions and 322 schools earning the Board of Education's VIP Competence to Excellence Award, go to [http://www.doe.virginia.gov/info\\_centers/newsroom/news\\_releases/2008/jan10b.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/info_centers/newsroom/news_releases/2008/jan10b.shtml).

*'If we always do what we've always done, we will get what we've always got.'* Adam Urbanski