

Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium

Bits & Bytes



Townsend Earns National Distance Learning Week Award at CILC Symposium

Indianapolis – Linda Townsend received a National Distance Learning Week Award in the Content Providers category from the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC). Linda Townsend is the Instructional Technology Design Specialist at the Institute for Teaching through Technology and Innovative Practices (ITTIP) of Longwood University.

Townsend was one of five k-12 educators from across the nation recognized for exemplary use of videoconferencing (IVC) and/or other synchronous communications technologies to support and advance learning. Two vendors that support distance learning were also honored.

CILC announced all winners during its National Distance Learning Week (NDLW) Awards Luncheon, which took place November 13 as part of the CILC Symposium in Indianapolis. The Symposium attracted distance learning leaders from 26 states, Canada and the UK. AT&T was the CILC Symposium title sponsor.

In nominating Townsend, Dr. Talaiver, the Director of ITTIP, proudly stated that Ms. Townsend is the driving force behind e-learning courses and management of distance learning projects for teachers. Rural schools lacking resources due to geographical proximity have been able to benefit from educational opportunities for teachers and students through distance education technologies provided by the ITTIP of Longwood University and Southside Virginia Regional Technology Consortium. In addition, she trains and nurtures Longwood faculty in developing and implementing distance learning courses through the Longwood Online Training Institute (LOTI).

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*"There is a brilliant
child locked in
every student."*

Marva Collins

Presenters for VEMA 2007



Technology is being integrated not just in classrooms but in school libraries across Virginia. Three presenters from three counties within the SVRTC shared their technology expertise with other library media specialists and educators at the annual state Virginia Educational Media Association Conference in Williamsburg, October 10-13, 2007. Jennifer Edwards of Sussex County shared her expertise on facilitating book discussions through blogs in her presentation of Tiger Readers – *Books and Blogs*. F. Cary Jackson III, Prince George County, gave technology

tips and trips through *What Do You Mean "Right Click"?* *The Little Known Uses of the Mouse's Right Button*. Gayle Miller of Colonial Heights presented ideas for using the familiar Jeopardy game in *How to Jeopardize Your Library Lessons*. VEMA attendees praised the wide range of topics and outstanding presenters this year. As calls go out for presenters for the 2008 VEMA conference being held in Richmond, we hope to see even more innovative sessions from representatives of the SVRTC divisions. Great job Jennifer Edwards, F. Cary Jackson III, and Gayle Miller.

Web Conferencing Training with SVRTC & ITP

On October 3, 2007, sixteen educators and staff from Appomattox, Charlotte, Cumberland, Greensville, Halifax, Henry, Hopewell, Mecklenburg, Patrick, and Sussex met for a hands-on training with Macromedia Breeze. As an online conferencing tool, travel time and travel costs can be cut for schools as hosts are able to create and manage meetings and presentations for live interaction with multiple sites.

Bill Wilson and Linda Townsend, worked with the group as they learned how to moderate a chat, invite others into their meeting, share their screen and files, and use audio and live video. Interactive components within Breeze, such as surveys of the audience during a session, were also demonstrated. For follow-up, resources and collaborative sharing of tips and techniques for facilitating a web conference will be available to trainees through the SVRTC Moodle site. Using the web for distance communications, Breeze provides a multitude of opportunities for collaboration and delivery of live communication across the vast geographic area of the 25 SVRTC school divisions.



Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!