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## **VDOE Announces Mathematics & Science Partnership Grants** *Grants Fund STEM-Related In-Service Training for 1,064 Teachers*

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is awarding grants totaling more than \$2.7 million to 17 partnerships between school divisions, colleges and universities to increase content knowledge and sharpen classroom skills of teachers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics — subject areas known collectively as “STEM.”

“Teacher content knowledge is a critical component of effective instruction,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Patricia I. Wright said. “Knowledgeable and confident teachers are essential to prepare students for postsecondary studies and STEM-related careers.”

In announcing the Mathematics and Science Partnership grant competition last October, VDOE requested proposals to create new K12-post-secondary partnerships to provide in-service training for teachers of STEM courses or to create professional development programs tied to the 2010 Science Standards of Learning (SOL). School divisions are expected to begin introducing new and revised content from the 2010 science standards this fall. By 2012-2013, all SOL science tests will be based exclusively on the content of the revised standards.

More than \$1.3 million in grants were awarded to fund eight new projects. Three of the newly funded partnerships will provide in-service training in the 2010 science standards for elementary teachers (lead higher-education partners listed first):

- **Inquiring Young Minds Want to Know for Grades K-5** — Regent University and Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools; \$101,083 to train 72 teachers.
- **Partnership for Teaching and Leading a Quality Science Program for Grades K-5** — Old Dominion University (ODU) and Northampton County Public Schools in conjunction with the Eastern Shore of Virginia Barrier Islands Center, Kiptopeke State Park and Northampton County Chamber of Commerce; \$155,856 to train 42 teachers.
- **Teaching Scientific Inquiry and the Nature of Science for Grades K-5** — University of Virginia and Charlottesville Public Schools; \$274,677 to serve 120 teachers.

Five new partnerships will provide STEM-related professional development encompassing mathematics and science content, scientific investigation, the nature of science, engineering design, mathematical analysis and problem solving, and appropriate technology (lead higher-education partners listed first):

- **Central Virginia Collaborative for Developing STEM Lessons to Improve Learning in Grades 4 and 5** — Sweet Briar College and five school divisions: Amherst County, Appomattox County, Bedford County, Campbell County and Lynchburg; as well as Holy Cross Regional Catholic School, James River Day School and Lynchburg College; \$199,502 to serve 138 teachers.
- **Expeditions in Science, Technology and Engineering Education through Mathematics (ESTEEM): Grades 9-12** — George Mason University and five school divisions: Manassas, Manassas Park, Fairfax County, Hopewell, Prince William County; as well as the Governor's School at Innovative Park; \$175,000 to serve 60 teachers.

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- **Inquiry by Engineering Design in Middle School Science and Mathematics** — Virginia Tech and Montgomery County Public Schools; \$140,000 to serve 20 teachers.
- **STEM Kairos: Engineering Everywhere for Grades K-3** — Longwood University and 17 school divisions: Amelia County, Brunswick County, Charlotte County, Colonial Heights, Cumberland County, Danville, Dinwiddie County, Halifax County, Hopewell, Lunenburg County, Martinsville, Mecklenburg County, Nottoway County, Pittsylvania County, Powhatan County, Prince Edward County and Sussex County, as well as ODU's Batten College of Engineering and the Danville Science Center; \$103,106 to serve 32 teachers.
- **Tidewater Team to Enhance STEM Education in Grades 4-5** — College of William and Mary and 22 school divisions: Brunswick County, Charles City County, Chesapeake, Dinwiddie County, Hampton, Hopewell, Isle of Wight County, King William County, Lancaster County, Mathews County, Middlesex County, New Kent County, Newport News, Norfolk, Northumberland County, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Richmond County, Southampton County, Sussex County, Williamsburg-James City County and York County; as well as Central Christian Academy, Chesapeake Academy, Christ the King Catholic School, Norfolk Academy, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Saint Mary Star of the Sea School, Southampton Academy, Texas Instruments Inc. and Children's Engineering Center; \$180,000 to serve 138 teachers.

Continuation grants totaling nearly \$1.5 million were awarded to nine projects providing in-service training on the 2009 Mathematics SOL. School divisions began introducing new and revised content from the 2009 mathematics standards this school year. By 2012-2013, all SOL mathematics tests will be based on the revised standards. The partnerships receiving second-year funding are as follows (lead higher-education partners listed first):

- **Center for Excellence in Mathematics Professional Learning and Coaching in Northern Virginia for Grades K-3** — George Mason University and six school divisions: Alexandria, Fairfax County, Falls Church, Loudoun County, Manassas and Prince William County; \$175,731 to serve 60 teachers.
- **Center for Excellence in Mathematics Professional Learning and Coaching in Northern Virginia for Grades 7-8: Fostering Algebra Connections through Critical Thinking Skills (FACTS) in Rational Numbers & Proportional Reasoning** — George Mason University and six school divisions: Alexandria, Fairfax County, Falls Church, Loudoun County, Manassas and Prince William County; \$188,541 to serve 60 teachers.
- **Collaborative for Math Professional Development: Teaching the 2009 K-3 Mathematics SOL in Southern Virginia** — Longwood University and 16 school divisions: Appomattox County, Buckingham County, Charlotte County, Cumberland County, Danville, Dinwiddie County, Halifax County, Henry County, Hopewell, Lunenburg County, Mecklenburg County, Nottoway County, Patrick County, Pittsylvania County, Prince Edward County and Sussex County; \$58,524 to serve 20 teachers.
- **Collaborative for Math Professional Development: Teaching the 2009 Grades 4-6 Mathematics SOL in Southern Virginia** — Longwood University's Institute for Teaching through Technology & Innovative Practices and 15 school divisions: Appomattox County, Buckingham County, Charlotte County, Cumberland County, Danville, Dinwiddie County, Henry County, Hopewell, Lunenburg County, Mecklenburg County, Nottoway County, Patrick County, Pittsylvania County, Prince Edward County and Sussex County; \$55,562 to serve 14 teachers.
- **Emory & Henry Regional Mathematics Professional Development Center** — Emory & Henry College and 19 school divisions: Bland County, Bristol, Buchanan County, Carroll County, Dickenson County, Galax, Giles County, Grayson County, Lee County, Norton, Pulaski County, Radford, Russell County, Scott County, Smyth County, Tazewell County, Washington County, Wise County and Wythe County; \$189,427 to serve 25 teachers.

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- **Process Standards Approach to Build Bridges from Arithmetic to Algebraic Thinking, Grades 4-6** — University of Virginia (UVA) and 13 school divisions: Albemarle County, Arlington County, Bedford County, Campbell County, Charlottesville, Culpeper County, Fauquier County, Fluvanna County, Frederick County, Gloucester County, Loudoun County, Spotsylvania County and Stafford County; \$159,240 to serve 38 teachers.
- **Southwest and Southside Virginia Secondary Mathematics Professional Development Center** — Radford University and 14 divisions: Craig County, Floyd County, Franklin County, Giles County, Grayson County, Martinsville, Montgomery County, Patrick County, Pittsylvania County, Pulaski County, Radford, Roanoke, Roanoke County and Salem; \$200,000 to serve 20 teachers.
- **Tidewater Team Middle School Mathematics Professional Development Center** — College of William & Mary and 26 school divisions: Brunswick County, Charles City County, Dinwiddie County, Franklin, Gloucester County, Hampton, Hopewell, Isle of Wight County, King and Queen County, King William County, Lancaster County, Mathews County, Middlesex County, New Kent County, Newport News, Norfolk, Northumberland County, Poquoson, Richmond County, Southampton County, Suffolk County, Surry County, Sussex County, West Point, Williamsburg-James City County and York County; \$226,113 to serve 150 teachers.
- **21st-Century Teaching Leads to 21st-Century Learning: Functions Algebra Project** — UVA and 16 school divisions: Albemarle County, Alexandria, Arlington County, Campbell County, Charlottesville, Culpeper County, Fauquier County, Fluvanna County, Frederick County, Gloucester County, Loudoun County, Page County, Spotsylvania County, Stafford County, Staunton and Westmoreland County; \$200,000 to serve 55 teachers.

Combined, the new and continuing mathematics and science partnerships will provide professional development for 1,064 teachers.

“Strengthening STEM instruction and successfully implementing the rigorous new science and mathematics standards are priorities of Governor Bob McDonnell and the Board of Education,” Wright said. “These Mathematics and Science Partnership grants will provide in-service training for more than 1,000 teachers across Virginia to help our public schools achieve these objectives.”

Mathematics and Science Partnership grants are authorized by Title II, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (also known as No Child Left Behind). The grant program is designed to improve instruction by encouraging partnerships between institutions of higher education and school divisions to provide opportunities for mathematics and science teachers to increase subject-matter knowledge and improve classroom skills.

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