

Virginia Competes: STEM Learning for ALL Students

The Institute for Teaching through Technology and Innovative Practices (ITTIP) of Longwood University hosted *Virginia Competes: Envisioning the future of STEM in K-12 Environment - STEM Learning for ALL Students* on January 29 and 30 on the Longwood University campus. This is the second annual STEM summit sponsored by Longwood ITTIP. The two-day summit was for math, science, career & technical education, special education teachers as well as administrators at all levels.

Participants heard from renowned speakers including Dr. Katharina Boser from Individual Differences in Learning Association; Dr. Kathleen McClaskey of EdTech Association, Dr. Gianluca De Leo from Old Dominion University, Kent Robertson with the Shodor Foundation, Michael Behrmann from George Mason University, Becky Jaramillo with the National Institute of Aerospace, Bonnie Bracey with the George Lucas Foundation and author/illustrator, Jean Gralley. Topics included: "What Does It Mean by STEM Learning for ALL," "Overview and Special Needs Projects by NASA," "PixTalk: Technology Assisted Information and Communication Exchange for Children with Severe Autism," "Online Math and Science Activities," and "NASA Resources for the Millennium Learner." Thursday evening, summit participants and local middle school students participating in the Digispired: Exploring Game Design heard author and illustrator Jean Gralley discuss the concept of digital books.



Following her talk which included viewing/reading several of Mrs. Gralley's digital books, everyone was invited to a book signing of her book, *Very Boring Alligator*.

Preparing students for the 21st century

Friday morning's keynote speaker was Dr. Linda Wallinger, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction from the Virginia Department of

Education. Dr. Wallinger discussed the changes in the US educational system and how the United States compares to other countries around the world. She also addressed the need to prepare all students for the highly technical 21st century workplace. At the end of the summit, guest speaker presentations were posted online for access by the 2009 STEM participants.

www.wdl.org

Have you visited the World Digital Library? It is an excellent source for journal articles, psychology topics, art, maps, and many other digital examples.



For additional questions, please call Susan or Barbara at the Institute for Teaching through Technology and Innovative Practices, (434) 517-0717.



Lunenburg Internet Safety Contest

Central High School's Instructional Technology Resource Teacher and Library Media Specialist, Mrs. S. Bolan, hosted an Internet Safety Contest. Students were encouraged to submit original songs, poems, videos, fliers, skits, and/or brochures focusing on one particular aspect of Internet Safety. Judging for the many entries took place Monday, February 16. The entries covered topics including cyber bullying, instant messaging, and



Central High's Internet Safety Team Members

meeting online strangers. After much discussion between the judges, two teams tied for second. They were: Courtney Marker's flyer design and Ashley Rose, Mary Bigger, and Chris Chapman's Video entitled "Stalker".

The first place winner was Jessica Jones and Kia Holliday's rap entitled "My Space Stalker". Sean Townsend assisted them with the drum instrumentals. Pictured are many of the team members who placed first, second or third in the contest.



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Dr. Linda Townsend Receives Ph. D



Dr. Townsend

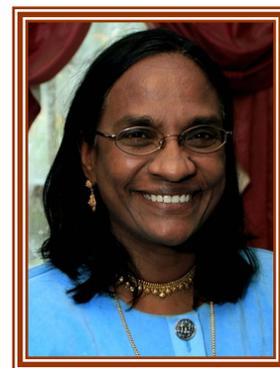
Linda Townsend received a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies through Virginia Tech.

Dr. Townsend is the Instructional Technology Design Specialist at the Institute for Teaching through Technology and Innovative Practices (ITTIP) of Longwood University. In addition, she trains and nurtures Longwood faculty in developing and implementing distance-learning courses through the Longwood Online Training Institute (LOTI).

Dr. Mano Talaiver of Longwood's ITTIP Receives National Award

Dr. Manorama (Mano) Talaiver, director of Longwood University's Institute for Teaching through Technology & Innovative Practices (ITTIP), has been selected for a national award for her science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) work with low-income and minority students and rural school divisions. Talaiver is the recipient of the 2009 Black Engineer of the Year Award for Promotion of Elementary Education. The award is for K-12 education, not simply elementary education. "Dr. Talaiver is without doubt the premier leader of educational technology in the United States," said Dr. Pat Fishback, director of science education emeritus at the Science Museum of Virginia.

Talaiver is the project director for the Central Virginia Technology Consortium, which includes 15 school divisions, in which she works with teachers and administrators in technology integration in classrooms.



Dr. Talaiver