



UPDATE

Technology as the Content and the Tool for Professional Development

Professional development is a concept well known by most educators. In the past, this was viewed as a process for maintaining credentials, license renewal credits, or continuing education. Today, keeping abreast of the latest trends and cutting edge practices means we are keeping pace with an ever-changing world. Consequently, keeping abreast of current trends has become an almost insurmountable task as new practices, technologies, and procedures are being introduced everyday.

Public educators also face new challenges in light of the recent emphasis on technology standards required within their professional development. In Virginia, there is an unequivocal expectation for educators to develop competence in the instructional uses of technology. As of December 1998, every school division was required to implement Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel. These Virginia Board of Education regulations spell out the specific skills that teachers and other educators must demonstrate.

Technology standards are areas that may be more unfamiliar to most educators and require additional training to acquire just minimal proficiency. Unfortunately, these skills must also be acquired in addition to continuing education in one's particular professional content area. This is not an easy task for many as it requires budgeting time, allocating new resources, and finding training opportunities that are conveniently located close to home.

Technology also offers a solution to these challenges. For many of us, access to the Internet has become an important tool in our lives. It provides a channel of communication through electronic mail (Email) to friends, family, and colleagues. Information searches are easily accessed as we locate resources through powerful Internet search engines that travel throughout the wide world of digital interconnectivity. Our lives are enriched by these powerful electronic tools that bridge the gap of distance and overcome many of its associated obstacles.

The T/TAC at VCU recognizes the importance that the technology medium can play in disseminating information to our public and consumers. Beginning this year, an emphasis will be placed on improving ways to deliver information and resources through technological means. This will include expansion and update to our existing web site, added interactivity, and electronic means to share communication.

Professional development opportunities will also be strengthened by this initiative as we explore and expand training that can be offered "from a distance". This should be a welcomed change to many educators who are often unable to attend workshops and conferences due to their job obligations, family commitments or geographical restrictions.

Future issues of our publications, *Innovations and Perspectives* and the *Update* will include information about our progress toward enhancing the T/TAC's ability to provide training and technical assistance through technology. Meanwhile, as you pursue your own personal growth in technology, visit the Milken Exchange on Education Technology at <http://www.milkenexchange.org>. This site has developed a web-based "professional competency continuum" that provides teachers an opportunity to identify gaps in what they know about education technology and then locate resources on how to fill them.

COMING SOON!

A new instructional tool, **Mathematics Video Instructional Development Series (Math VIDS)** will soon be available to classroom teachers. This tool consists of two CDs that provide strategies to enhance math instruction for ALL students who have math learning problems (grades Kindergarten through 5th grade). Math VIDS provides a database of effective strategies, video models of teachers implementing these strategies, and audio elaborations, in an easy-to-use and easy-to-follow format. Math VIDS is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education and was developed by Dr. David Allsop, Rich Ingram, and Dr. Maggie Kyger at James Madison University along with the efforts of special educators, math educators, and instructional specialists. In addition to the Math VIDS CDs, teachers will receive a user manual and have access to an interactive Website. Regional trainings will take place in January and February 2000. These regional representatives will then disseminate Math VIDS within their individual school divisions.

* PLEASE NOTE *

We apologize for the misprint in our last issue of *Innovations & Perspectives*, in the **Upcoming T/TAC Events** section.

William P. Bintz, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky, not the University of Kansas.

UPCOMING T/TAC EVENTS

To register for any of the following training events, please complete the registration form in the fold out section in the back of your newsletter and either fax (804/828/7495) or mail (address below) to the Registration Coordinator at the Region 1 Office.



All checks should be made payable to VCU/VIDD and should be mailed to: Registration Coordinator, VCU T/TAC Region 1 Office, P.O. Box 842020, Richmond, VA 23284.

If you have any questions or concerns about a training event, please call the contact person specified for that event.

Transdisciplinary Play-Based Assessment: Making Assessment Natural and Functional for Infants and Young Children

Presented by:	Toni Linder, Ed.D.
Date:	February 24, 2000
Time:	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Location:	Wyndham Garden Hotel, Richmond, VA
Cost:	\$30 (registration fee and lunch)
Target Audience:	Early intervention preschool educators and families. This is a preparation/application level training.
Presenter Info:	Toni Linder is the author of several books on transdisciplinary play- based assessment and intervention. She is a nationally recognized speaker and a leader in the field of Early Childhood Special Education.
Training Description:	Discover how to do play-based assessments with formal and informal assessment instruments for use in infant, preschool, and kindergarten settings. Learn how to complete the assessment- intervention-evaluation process and design effective IFSPs and IEPs.
Register by:	February 15, 2000
Capacity:	75
T/TAC Contact:	Sharon Jones (804) 828-6947 or (800) 426-1595

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4th Annual TAPESTRY for Learning

March 9, 2000

at Virginia Commonwealth University Student Commons

Sponsored by:

The Training and Technical Assistance Centers (T/TACs)

at

William and Mary

Old Dominion University

Virginia Commonwealth University

and

Together We Can:

The Virginia Project for the Integration of Children with DeafBlindness

VIDD, VCU

Schedule of Events:

7:45 - 8:45	Registration
8:45 - 9:00	Welcome
9:00 - 10:15	Keynote
10:30 - 11:45	Breakout Session 1
11:45 - 12:45	Lunch (provided)
12:45 - 2:15	Breakout Session 2
2:30 - 4:00	Breakout Session 3

Participants will be able to attend entire strands or individual sessions within strands in the areas of Technology, Positive Behavioral Supports, Secondary Education, Language and Communication, Standards of Learning, Legal Issues, Alternative Assessment, Literacy, and Individualized Educational Plans.

Featuring Keynote Speaker

Bill Henderson
Principal,
Patick O'Hearn School
Boston, MA

Bill has been principal of the O'Hearn School for 10 years. During his tenure the school has gained national recognition for successes in inclusive education.

(please look for registration form in the fold out section in the back of this newsletter)

Mark Your Calendars!

Second Annual
Early Childhood Partnership Conference:
Developing Relationships to Better Serve
Young Children

Developing Functional Curriculum for Students with Severe Disabilities

Presented by: Stacy Dymond, M.S.
Date: February 23, 2000
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Location: John Tyler Community College, Chester Campus, Chester, VA
Cost: \$15 (registration fee and lunch)
Target Audience: Teachers, therapists, and families. This is a preparation/application training.
Requirements: School-based teams of two+ members. Required members include: a special educator and a related service provider. Parents are also encouraged to attend as team members.
Presenter Info: Stacy Dymond is the director of the transdisciplinary program in severe disabilities at VCU. She has extensive experience teaching students with severe disabilities and consulting with professionals and families.
Training Description: This training will address questions such as:

- What does a "good" curriculum look like for students with severe disabilities?
- How do I develop activities that are functional and age appropriate?
- What types of assessments will help me develop a functional curriculum?
- How can I manage staff to support instruction?
- How do I create an effective learning environment that encourages all students to be active learners?

Register by: February 1, 2000
Capacity: Ten teams of 2+ members
T/TAC Contact: Tracy Landon (804) 828-6947 or (800) 426-1595

Reading in the Content Areas

Presented by: William P. Bintz, Ph.D.
Date: February 25, 2000
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Location: John Tyler Community College, Chester Campus, Chester, VA
Cost: \$15.00 (registration and lunch)
Target Audience: For teachers, K-12, interested in helping students develop reading skills in the content areas. Special emphasis: Social Studies and Science.
Requirements: This training is intended for teams of teachers (collaborating partners, grade levels colleagues, and/or content area teams). Teams will receive limited follow-up assistance upon request. Individual teachers may attend, but no follow-up will be available.
Presenter Info: Dr. Bintz is an associate professor at the University of Kentucky. He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in elementary, middle, and secondary reading methods. His professional interests include inquiry-based learning and teaching, reading across the curriculum K-12, whole language curriculum, and curriculum development.
Training Description: Participants will:

- Increase their understanding of the reading process
- Increase their awareness of recent advances in reading theory and practice
- Learn a variety of comprehension-based strategies for use across the curriculum
- Create variations of these strategies for use in their specific content areas

Register by: February 4, 2000
Capacity: Limited to 75 teachers (teams encouraged)
T/TAC Contact: Jayne Bradley (804) 828-6947 or (800) 426-1595



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**Train-the-Trainer
(various ages)**

Presented by: Jayne Bradley, M.Ed.,
Pam Kinney, M.S.,
Tracy Landon, Ed.D.,
Sandy Wilberger, M.Ed.,
and Kathe Wittig, M.S.

Date: March 30-31, 2000

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: TBA

Cost: \$20 (registration fee and two lunches)

Target Audience: For administrators, teachers, therapists, and families. This is an implementation/management level train-the-trainer training.

Requirements: School-based teams of five members which must include: an assistant principal, a school psychologist or guidance counselor, a general education teacher, and a parent. Training materials and on-site technical assistance will be provided.

Presenter Info: All are program specialists at VCU T/TAC. Their combined experiences include teaching, administering, and consulting with professionals and families of children, ages 2-21, with challenging behavior.

Training Description: Learn how to provide training to teams using case studies regarding:

- IDEA Amendments fo 1999 regarding discipline
- Teaming pre-requisites
- Philosophical underpinnings of PBS
- The process used to conduct FBAs and devleop meaningul PBSs
- Indirect and direct assessment methods
- The use of various positive behavioral supports

Register by: March 20, 2000

Capacity: Six teams

T/TAC Contact: Tracy Landon
(804) 828-6947 or (800) 426-1595



**Professional Development
Opportunities**

Adolescent Literacy Forum

Date: February 12, 2000
Location: Fairfax, Virginia
Contact: cdarwin@erols.com

**Technology and Persons with Disabilities
*Where Assistive Technology
Meets the Information Age***

Date: March 20-25, 2000
Location: Los Angeles, California
Contact: 818-677-2578

**The 24th Annual Conference
The Virginia Branch
The International Dyslexia Association
Partnerships in Literacy:
Students, Educators, Researchers, and Parents**

Date: March 24-25, 2000
Location: Holiday Inn-Koger Center South,
Richmond, VA
Contact: VBIDA
(800) 988-8336

**Special Education World Congress 2000
*Research, Policy And Practice:
Building on Global Achievements*
(In conjunction with CEC's Annual Convention & Expo)**

Sponsor: CEC and DISES
Date: April 4-8, 2000
Location: Vancouver, BC, Canada
Contact: 888-232-7733

Fundamentals of Structured Teaching
(This workshop covers the basics of implementing structured teaching in the classroom using lecture and hands-on activities.)

Date: February 17-18, 2000
Location: Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Contact: Thea Gardner
(919) 966-5156
FAX: (919) 966-4003
TheaNC@aol.com



High Functioning Autism

(This workshop covers the characteristics of high functioning autism and intervention with this population using lecture and hands-on activities.)

Date: March 23-24, 2000
Location: Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Contact: Thea Gardner
(919) 966-5156
FAX: (919) 966-4003
TheaNC@aol.com

21st Annual TEACCH Conference "Educational Approaches to Autism"

Date: May 25-26, 2000
Location: Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Contact: Alice Wertheimer
FAX: (919) 966-4127
Alice_Wertheimer@med.unc.edu



Please Note

Some locations and registration deadlines in the Training at a Glance Brochure have been changed. If you are planning to attend a training, please call the T/TAC contact person to obtain any updated information that you may need.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

12th Annual Families Are Special, Too! Conference

The 2000 Families Are Special, Too! Conference for families and educators of young children with special needs will be held in Roanoke, Virginia on March 31st and April 1st. The Virginia Division for Early Childhood is soliciting proposals for presentations on topics of interest to families and educators of young children with special needs. Sessions will run approximately 60 minutes. Proposals should focus on practical, current, and helpful information, strategies and ideas that parents and providers can use on a day-to-day basis with children. Priority will be given to proposals for sessions co-presented by families and providers as well as those sessions which focus on parent-provider partnerships.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a proposal or the conference in general, please call Dana Yarbrough at (804) 222-1945 or Susan Petersen at (703) 993-3670.



WELCOME!

The VCU T/TAC would like to welcome two new staff members:

*Victoria Walden, Library Assistant
and
Jerri Cash, Information and Dessimination
Specialist*

*Look for more information on our new staff members in the February issue of
Innovations & Perspectives.*



VCU
LOGO

T/TAC Region 1
School of Education
VCU Box 842020
Richmond, VA 23284

T/TAC Region 8
Learning Center Campus
P.O. Box 309
Lawrenceville, VA 23868



Happy
Holidays

T/TAC Office in Region 1 T/TAC Office in Region 8

School of Education
VCU Box 842020
Richmond, VA 23284
(804) 828-6947
TDD (800) 828-1120
FAX (804) 828-7495

Learning Center Campus
P.O. Box 309
Lawrenceville, VA 23868
(804) 848-6339
877-383-1199
FAX (804) 848-6333

For more information concerning T/TAC trainings, professional development opportunities, or the services we provide, please call toll free 1-800-426-1595 (Region 1) or 1-877-383-1199 (Region 8).

VCU T/TAC Web Address:
www.vcu.edu/eduweb/ttac.htm



VIRGINIA
INSTITUTE FOR
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

The T/TAC Staff

Project Co-Director	Howard Garner
Project Co-Director	Evelyn Reed-Victor
Program Specialist	Jayne Bradley
Program Specialist	Linda Ingelson
Program Specialist	Sharon Jones
Program Specialist	Pam Kinney
Program Specialist	Tracy Landon
Program Specialist	Linda Oggel
Program Specialist	Jo Smith Read
Program Specialist	Fran Smith
Program Specialist	Debby Wesson
Program Specialist	Sandy Wilberger
Program Specialist	Kathe Wittig
Information & Dissemination Specialist	Jerri Cash
Program Support Technician	Sarah Clevinger
Office Services Specialist	Paul Robertson
Library Assistant	Victoria Walden
Graduate Assistant	Rebecca Dawson

The Training and Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC) at Virginia Commonwealth University is one of a network of regional T/TACs funded by the Virginia Department of Education.

Training Registration Form

Topic: _____ Cost: _____

Name and Position:

School or Agency:

Mailing Address:

Work Phone:

Please return this form with payment. Make check payable to VCU T/TAC and mail to:

Registration Coordinator
VCU Training and Technical Assistance Center
P.O. Box 842020
Richmond, VA 23284-2020

***Please copy and use a separate registration form for each workshop.**



Registration Form *A Tapestry for Learning* March 9, 2000



Name and Position:

School or Agency:

Mailing Address:

Work Phone:

Return this form to:

Sandy Wilberger
T/TAC School of Education
VCU Box 842020
Richmond, VA 23284-2020

Registration limited to the first 500 people.
Registration fee is \$30 and covers cost of food.
Registration deadline is March 1, 1999.
Make checks payable to VCU/VIDD.

** If special accommodations are needed, please contact the T/TAC offices at:
Phone: (804) 828-6947 or (800) 426-1595
TDD: (800) 828-1120