



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

April 11, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Virginia Health and Physical Activity Institute, July 13-16, 2014, James Madison University**

The Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance extend an invitation to all administrators and teachers to attend the Healthy Kids, Healthy Virginia 2014 Health and Physical Activity Institute. The Institute will be held July 13-16, 2014, at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

This high-quality professional development provides opportunities for sharing effective teaching and learning practices that improve the health and educational performance of children in Virginia's schools. The 2014 Institute will feature several nationally acclaimed educators, the National Teachers of the Year, and breakout sessions that will focus on health promotion and the prevention of chronic diseases, which are the most common, costly, and preventable health problems in the U.S. Session topics will include nutrition education; fitness and wellness; CPR/AED/basic first aid recertification and instructor trainer certification; active recess; bullying and suicide prevention; dance; adapted physical education; standards-based assessment; curriculum leadership; school employee wellness; life skills, cooperative learning, and differentiated instruction; integrating technology and instruction; injury prevention; and other opportunities to build teacher capacity and instructional expertise in promoting effective teaching and learning for the *Standards of Learning for Health Education, Physical Education, and Driver Education*.

In addition to the high-quality keynote and concurrent sessions, there are several special events (<http://www.jmu.edu/kinesiology/hpainstitute/specialevents.html>) that require early arrivals on Sunday, July 13, 2014. These include an *Archery in Schools* and *Bike Smart Virginia* certification course for teachers; a driver education workshop for teachers and supervisors; and a leadership track for health and physical education program supervisors and staff wellness coordinators.

James Madison University will also be offering three-credit, graduate-level courses: *Technology in Health and Physical Education*; *Assessment and Instructional Strategies in Adapted Physical Education*; and *Physiological Importance of Physical Education*. Information about these courses, special events, registration, and the Call for Presenters form is available online at <http://www.jmu.edu/kinesiology/hpainstitute/index.html>.

If you need additional information about the 2014 Health and Physical Activity Institute, please contact Vanessa Wigand, principal specialist for health, physical, and driver education, Office of Science and Health Education, by e-mail at [Vanessa.Wigand@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Wigand@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 225-3300; or Dr. Jacqueline Williams, professor, James Madison University, by e-mail at [williaja@jmu.edu](mailto:williaja@jmu.edu) or by telephone at (540) 568-6957.

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