



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

April 5, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: From Vision to Practice Ninth Annual Institute - Crossroads: Redefining the Educational Experience**

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to announce the ninth annual From Vision to Practice Institute, to be held **July 9-11, 2013**, at the Williamsburg Hotel and Conference Center (soon to be Doubletree by Hilton Williamsburg) in Williamsburg, Virginia. The theme of this year's Institute is *Crossroads: Redefining the Educational Experience*.

The theme builds upon the previous year's focus on emerging trends in education. Reform principles established as part of the U.S. Department of Education's flexibility from certain requirements of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) have become a driving force in educational policy. Key reform areas include college- and career-ready standards and assessments, differentiated accountability and support for schools, and principal and teacher evaluation and effectiveness.

The 2013 *From Vision to Practice Institute* will address changes in the educational experience brought about by Virginia's educational reforms and ESEA flexibility offered by the U.S. Department of Education. The Institute will focus on the following key reform areas:

- **College- and Career-Readiness:** Preparing students for success in postsecondary education and a competitive work force
- **Accountability and Support:** Recognizing schools for successfully closing achievement gaps and helping students excel and supporting lower-performing schools
- **Effective Instruction:** Encouraging innovative and effective instruction through professional development, evaluation, and support for teachers and principals

The recommended attendees for the Institute are: 1) administrators, including federal program coordinators; 2) principals; 3) teachers and instructional specialists; and 4) school counselors and pupil services personnel. Additional information, including a tentative agenda, an online registration link, and lodging details can be found at the following link: <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/vtop/>.

**Registration** - The Office of Continuing and Professional Education at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) will manage online registration. School divisions should designate one individual to register a maximum of five participants from their division. The Institute will have a \$100 registration and \$125 late or on-site registration fee for each participant. **The deadline for registration is Friday, June 21, 2013.** If the registration form submitted indicates that additional staff members are interested in attending the Institute, the designee will be informed if space is available after June 21, 2013. Participants may register online for the Institute at the link above.

**Lodging** – Lodging costs for July 8-10, 2013, for those outside of a fifty mile radius of Williamsburg will be paid by the Department. The room cost will be masterbilled to the Department upon departure. **Room reservations** must be made by **Friday, June 21, 2013**. A block of rooms has been reserved from July 8-10, 2013. **It is the responsibility of attendees to make their own reservations.** To reserve a room, contact the Williamsburg Hotel and Conference Center at (757) 220-2500, and reference “Virginia Department of Education, From Vision to Practice Institute.”

**Authorized Expenses** – Registration costs, evening meals, parking, and travel costs are the responsibility of attendees; however, these expenses are authorized activities and may be charged to local Title I, Part A; Title II, Part A; Title III, Part A; or Title IV, Part B, budgets. Materials, breakfast, lunch, and breaks will be provided. Participants are asked to be present for all meal functions.

**Cancellation** – If participants need to cancel their reservations, please contact the hotel directly, as well as Dawn Bradbury, the Virginia Tech registrar, no later than Friday, June 21, 2013, at (540) 231-1779 or (540) 231-5182 or [adbrad05@vt.edu](mailto:adbrad05@vt.edu).

For questions, please contact Christopher Kelly, education coordinator, at [Christopher.Kelly@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Christopher.Kelly@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-2122; or Marsha Granderson, grants and reports manager, at [Marsha.Granderson@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Marsha.Granderson@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 786-1993.

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