



VCDA ONLINE NEWSLETTER

January 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

- [VCDA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE](#)
- [VCDA SPRING CONFERENCE KICKOFF](#)
- [VCDA INITIATES CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS](#)
- [VCDA SUPPORTS SUCCESSFUL NORTHERN VIRGINIA SUMMIT ON CAREER DEVELOPMENT](#)
- [NCDA CONFERENCE COMING TO WASHINGTON, DC - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED](#)
- [VCDA BOARD NEWS - NEW MEMBERS AND VACANCIES](#)



VCDA President's Message

"If You Build It, They Will Come" Summit, VCDA Conference, & VCDA Awards

Dear VCDA Colleagues:

On December 14, the Northern Virginia School Counseling Leadership Team brought together about 160 people to a Summit on Career Development. Counselors, Counselor Supervisors, School Division Leaders, Counselor Educators, Career Specialists, and graduate students came from 8 different school systems, despite fighting traffic gridlock at a busy time of the year, because they decided it was "a priority" in the role of school counselors. The Summit was supported by VCDA and VSCA.

I believe the significant attendance, the enthusiastic discussions, and the interaction among participants are an indication that the time is now for all counselors and other career development specialists to learn more about making career development a priority in the student's day. Here are some things you can do to keep this momentum moving forward:

- **The VCDA Conference 2008: Career Pathways - Your Global Positioning System** on March 6 at Germanna Community College in Fredericksburg presents an opportunity to improve your skills and become current about career development in the learning process. We have noteworthy speakers and presenters that will add to your knowledge base, energize you, and stimulate you. Registration will begin later this week.
- **Model Career Development Awards** VCDA also wants to acknowledge the good work that you as educators are doing to help students with career decisions. VCDA is initiating our annual **Model Career Development Awards** to honor the best practice in our field. Take a few minutes to learn how you can submit your best work and share your ideas with other professionals.
- **Global Career Development Facilitator Program:** Would you like to become recognized as a certified **Global Career Development Facilitator**? Learn how this program can help you become a leader in the field and at your work site. VCDA would like to sponsor a summer session at a convenient site. Talk to your supervisor about offering it for your school division. Check out the VCDA website to learn more. Email vcda@vcdaweb.org if we can bring the GCDF Program to your area.

Thanks for your support and continued interest in career development.

Sincerely,

Manny

Manny Bartolotta

VCDA President, 2007-08

VCDA CONFERENCE 2008
Career Pathways – Your Global Positioning System



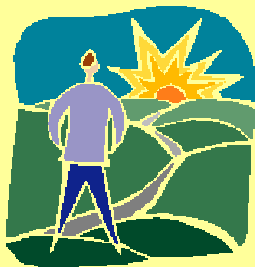
VCDA Conference 2008 promises to be the largest and best ever. Our Conference location at Germanna Community College in Fredericksburg on March 6, 2008 is convenient to many geographical parts of the state, so we expect a large turnout. We are especially honored to have Dr. Pat Stanley, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges, US Dept. of Education as our Keynote Speaker. Dr. Stanley is a popular, dynamic and entertaining speaker who brings valuable insight about education and the world of work to all her audiences. Our session presenters are professionals in career development who have presented at national and statewide conferences. **Online and mail-in registration on Friday January 20.**

Conference 2008 is packed with some great features:

- Keynote Speaker
- Luncheon Speaker
- 10 Program Breakout Sessions (so far)
- Continental Breakfast
- Box Lunch from Panera Bread
- One Low Price for the Day
- Online Registration or Mail-In Registration
- Centrally Located Site
- CEU's for Certification Points
- VCDA Model Career Develop Awards

To learn more about the speakers, breakout sessions and other information: go to www.vcdaweb.org/conference

MODEL CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS



Are you providing an effective career development program for your school community that deserves recognition?

The VCDA Board wants to honor the best practices in career development with its first annual Model Career Development Awards. This is an opportunity to affirm the good work you do or the good work of one of your colleagues. Online or mail-in applications will be accepted until February 15. Winners will be recognized at the VCDA Conference 2008.

For award criteria, application and more information:

www.vcdaweb.org/awards

VCDA BOARD BUSINESS: NEW BOARD MEMBERS & VACANCIES

We are happy to announce that we have added several members to the VCDA Board. We appreciate their interest in making a contribution to VCDA and we look forward to their involvement.

➤ Website Team:

Terry Burton

Career Specialist
Monticello High School
Charlottesville, VA 22902

Debbie Gannon

Career and Instructional Technology Coordinator
Charlottesville Albermarle
Technology Education Center (CATEC)
Charlottesville, VA 22901

➤ Middle School Representative

Maria L. Verna

School Counselor
Hayfield Middle School
Alexandria, Va

Vacancies:

- Jennifer Schooff has resigned her elected position as Director at Large for Communication (aka Online Newsletter Editor) due to her impending wedding plans. Best wishes to Jennifer. The VCDA Board will appoint someone to fill the two-year position.
- We are also looking for a few energetic members who would like to serve the career development profession with their time and talents to fill three other positions:

✚ **Workforce Representative**

✚ **Public Relations Chair**

✚ **Student Representative**

If you would like to serve in the above positions or recommend a colleague for a position, please email vcda@vcdaweb.org for more details and to tell us about your interest.

More about VCDA Board: www.vcdaweb.org/board.htm



NCDCA CONFERENCE 2008 COMING TO WASHINGTON, DC JULY 9-11

The National Career Development Association is excited to announce the 2008 NCDCA Global Conference. The conference will be held at the wonderful Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill, Washington D.C., July 9-11. You won't want to miss this great opportunity to attend this conference! We are expecting 1,000+ attendees at the premiere conference for career development professionals across all areas of career development and in all settings. For more information, [Click Here](#).

Volunteers Needed: Virginia and Maryland Career Development Association will be asked to provide volunteers. If someone volunteers 10 hours over the period of the conference they receive a full conference fee waiver. They receive discounts for any hours less than 10. **VCDA members will have preference for volunteering.** We will be receiving a formal request soon indicating the exact number need. If you are interested, email vcda@vcdaweb.org, subject - NCDCA Volunteer.

SUMMIT ON CAREER DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA: A LOOK BACK

About 160 enthusiastic counselors, career development specialists, counselor educators, school system counseling leaders, and graduate students gathered at George Mason University on December 14, for the School Counseling Leadership Team Summit on Career Development. School system representatives came from Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, Loudoun, Manassas City, Manassas Park, and Prince William schools. Counselors educators from George Mason, George Washington, and Marymount Universities. The Virginia Career Development Association and Virginia School Counselor Association contributed refreshments and supplies for the meeting, and George Mason University provided the meeting space.

Dr. Pam Brott, Counselor Educator from Virginia Tech delivered the keynote “Every Day is Career Day”. Dr. Brott provided a historical perspective on careers, and offered a fresh way to view careers choices – as one of the many “life roles” to which we adapt as we develop. Rich Crowley, Counseling Coordinator from Fairfax County Schools, engaged a panel of counseling leaders, educators, and a graduate student to reflect on how our own career choices were made, and the role of counselors as leaders in the current educational setting. Provocative questions involved the audience to address ways that they succeeded in getting students more focused on career skills in the context of their learning experience. In the final session of the Program, counselors met with their grade level colleagues to discuss their successes and their challenges in promoting career development in the elementary, middle, and high school settings.

The Summit was the first of its kind in recent history in Northern Virginia and perhaps the state, where school system leaders, counseling practitioners, and educators came together to spotlight the importance of career development in the learning process. Quite significantly, many counselors drove long distances, particularly from Manassas, Loudoun and Prince William Counties, during northern Virginia’s horrendous rush hour, to be a part of the Summit.



Clearly, the strong representation from the surrounding school systems was an indication that a need existed for this discussion. The Sharon DeBragga, VCDA President-Elect, everyone could take something back to the workplace to work with; for her, it was the idea that perhaps, in the future, career specialists and counselors might more appropriately be referred to as “transition specialists” since that was at the center of their role. Dr. Pat Schwallie-Giddis, counselor educator from George Washington University and currently a candidate for President of the National Career Development Association, spoke of the urgency to bring careers to the forefront because we were already behind. Dr. Tammy Davis, a counselor educator from Marymount and Past-President of VSCA summarized best with her closing comment as a panelist: the priority to infuse career development more extensively in k-12 education was “not just a choice but a necessity”.

What’s next for the School Counselor Leadership Team? The group will meet in January to review the feedback from the participants, and what the needs of the schools are, to assess its own goals. VCDA is focusing its Spring Conference on March 6 on “Career Pathways: Your Global Position System”. In addition, VCDA is prepared to provide leadership for a Career Development Summit in other regions of the state where local school counseling leaders and counselor educators feel the need. For more information, email VCDA (vcda@vcdaweb.org).

The VCDA Online Newsletter is published as a member service by the VCDA Board, Manny Bartolotta, President (2007-08). Questions or comments may be directed to vcda@vcdaweb.org