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The Virgin Islands Department of Education Announces Plans to Host Digital Learning Day, February 6, 2013

DIGITAL LEARNING DAY

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE), is pleased to announce its participation in the Digital Learning Day campaign. This national campaign is designed to celebrate innovative teaching and highlight practices that make learning more personalized and engaging for students, exploring how digital learning can provide all students with the opportunities they deserve—to build the skills needed to succeed in college, a career, and life. Through this work and by hosting a Digital Learning Day on February 6, 2013, the VIDE strives to build momentum for a wave of innovation that changes policies, shifts attitudes, and supports wide-scale adoption of these promising instructional practices.

All education stakeholders—districts, schools, teachers, students, librarians, parents, and business and community partners—are encouraged to register to support and participate in Digital Learning Day. By signing up now, participants will have access to targeted toolkits, updates, informational videos, webinars, and other resources. No matter the approach, no matter the grade level, no matter the subject or geographic location, no matter a teacher's specific comfort with using technology, this campaign will challenge education professionals and policymakers at all levels to start a conversation, make a proclamation, improve a lesson, and/or create a plan.

Then, on Digital Learning Day—Wednesday, February 6, 2013—a national town hall meeting will be held to highlight and celebrate participants across the nation. In the VIDE, promising practices in districts, schools, and classrooms across the territory will be celebrated throughout the coming online at the VIDE's new web portal, www.vide.vi. Schools, libraries, community programs, and classrooms are invited to showcase how they are using digital media to improve teaching and learning.

As a local host of Digital Learning Day, the VIDE will recognize educators, students, parents, business partners, and/or school(s) that are using innovation to make a difference for students. The VIDE will continue to reach out and highlight resources that support the goals of and participation in Digital Learning Day and encourages the sharing of ideas, creative lessons, and resources with others across the territory.

Commissioner LaVerne Terry, Ed.D., is asking every stakeholder (parent, student, educator, business and community partner, etc.) to do one or more of the following: 1) send to

ideas@doe.vi your ideas, lesson plans or description of your involvement with using, supporting or being a part of an outstanding digital learning activity so it may be shared and/or showcased on the new VIDE web portal (www.vide.vi) 2) start a conversation about digital learning or join in one, and/or 3) go to www.vide.vi and subscribe to receive SMS text messages about digital learning and other education related information 4) try at least one new digital learning activity in your classroom on Digital Learning Day this February 6, 2013, or anytime during the 2013 calendar year!

The VIDE will also send email blasts to all employees and text messages with information on Digital Learning Day this Wednesday, to all its stakeholders who signed up online at www.vide.vi.

Instructional leaders are encouraged to review and become familiar with the national educational technology standards (ISTE NETS), common core state standards, online assessments and 21st century technology literacy requirements (accessible on www.vide.vi). Educators are also encouraged to take the 21st century technology literacy assessment for students to get a firsthand experience in seeing what questions and skills students are required to master to be successful in an increasingly digital workplace and world.

Parents are encouraged to, in addition to face to face onsite visits, to also frequently make phone calls and virtually visit school and teacher websites, to get involved with other stakeholders (teachers, administrators, community, businesses etc.) supporting student centered learning.

Throughout the year districts should encourage every teacher to post course information and digital learning content on teacher web page, connected to the school website, for access by parents and students. Throughout the year teachers and state and district support staff should facilitate uploading of content by students on student web pages attached to the school and/or teacher web pages for secure viewing of student publications, portfolios and digital learning activities.

The campaign is a movement that will help provide a quality education for EVERY child. Change is up to YOU; please help build this wave for innovation, personalized learning, and great teaching by participating in the Digital Learning Day campaign effort.

To learn more about how to be a part of this groundbreaking event, sign up at <http://www.digitalllearningday.org>. You can also “like” Digital Learning Day on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/NationalDigitalLearningDay> and follow the discussion on Twitter using the hashtag #DLDDay.