



VLDS

INSIGHTS CONFERENCE

VLDS INSIGHTS CONFERENCE SESSIONS HIGHLIGHTS

Attendees and Presenters Explore the Potential of Data

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VLDS EXPLAINED



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What is VLDS?

Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS) is a pioneering collaboration for Virginia's future, providing the Commonwealth an unprecedented and cost-effective mechanism for extracting, shaping and analyzing educational and

INSIGHTS CONFERENCE 2013 SESSION SUMMARIES

Sixteen sessions, two keynotes and an unconference centered on the potential of longitudinal data to inspire planning tools, improve outcomes, inform strategies, strengthen education, the workforce and, ultimately, the economy and in assisting decision makers in identifying strengths and weaknesses so as to implement effective policies.

In the spirit of continued collaboration, in case you missed the conference or had to choose between two interesting sessions, the following are highlights and quotes from some of the most popular sessions.

A Startup Perspective

Thousands of "edtech" startups have sprung up in the last few years. Venture capitalists are falling over each other to invest in education-related companies. One venture capitalist and two education company founders shared their perspectives on edtech startups, how they use data like VLDS and how research can help enable the next

workforce development data and more in an environment that ensures the highest levels of privacy.

Funded by the 2009 Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Grant Program of the United States Department of Education, VLDS is comprised of several component technologies that support secure, authorized research addressing today's key educational and workforce training questions. VLDS is the result of a shared effort by several Virginia government agencies, but is designed to expand to others.

A brief video explanation may be found on the [VLDS website](#).



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generation of companies that can help improve educational outcomes.



Memorable Quotes:

"You can only improve what you can measure. The ability to understand what is going on in the students' educational process will change things, as well as technology devices."

"Data will change education because it will help you diagnose what is going wrong, to determine whether it is a vocabulary issue or a motivational issue."

"The cost and time to create great tech programs has been drastically lowered."

Division Perspective: Student Information System Grantees

A major challenge facing school information officers is gathering, analyzing and using data to improve teaching and learning, while protecting privacy. Representatives of four of Virginia's school divisions discussed their most recent activities related to these challenges. This presentation aimed to stimulate interest and to promote "out of the box" thinking regarding the future of data in, for and from school divisions.



Memorable Quotes:

"This information allows teachers to dig into the ways students learn."

"Student progression over the course of multiple assessments over years provided teachers the ability to analyze which strategies have worked well."

The Power of VLDS

Representatives of the founding VLDS participating agencies (VDOE, SCHEV, VEC, VCCS) and VITA provided a brief history of the system and spoke about the potential array of data-driven insights and their implications for education and workforce policies.



Memorable Quotes:

"Only half of college graduates graduate within four years."

"Tests are not the only way to evaluate success. Perhaps with better data, we can move away from tests and, instead, use observation of data to evaluate success."

"Accountability is a lesser priority. We are trying to improve learning and achieving their [students'] goals in life."

"VLDS helps us avoid the "Go-Fish" expedition of data sharing and research."

Interested in reading more? For session summaries and quotes from the conference, visit the VLDS INSIGHTS Conference [Session Summaries](#) page. Presentations may be found at [VLDS INSIGHTS Presentations](#).

VLDS INSIGHTS 2014?

Yes, Virginia, there will be an INSIGHTS Conference 2014

Feedback from attendees was so overwhelmingly positive, VLDS INSIGHTS will be an annual event. Planning has begun for VLDS INSIGHTS Conference 2014. Your suggestions and feedback is welcome. Please tell us about sessions you would like to see repeated and suggest others you would like to see. Send your ideas

to brooke.bell@cit.org

E-Newsletter Transitions to Monthly Editions

Now that the INSIGHTS Conference is over, this e-newsletter will shift focus to monthly updates on VLDS-related news and information and occasional short important updates. We look forward to sharing a year full of Insights Powered by VLDS and hope you'll help us to spread the news.

VLDS powers data-driven insights in education and the workforce.

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For more information, visit the conference site at:

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