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VLDS E-Newsletter - June 2014

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Q&A with Aneesh Chopra, Former U.S. Chief Technology Officer and Virginia Secretary of Technology

VLDS: What role does data play in education innovation?

CHOPRA: In most industries, data plays a central role in improving productivity. If there is a sector of the economy that needs to deliver "more with less," it is our educational system - from pre-k to post-graduate levels. Given fiscal pressures and the need for an ever more skilled workforce, I see the role of data in education as rising.

VLDS: In your experience as the nation's first Chief Technology Officer, how did you see state longitudinal data systems furthering goals determined by the administration?

CHOPRA: I'm as biased now as I was while serving in Virginia and proudly supported them in my role as US CTO. In the president's strategy for American innovation, I see the benefits of SLDS across each role for government: as a "building block" by considering outcomes data as "infrastructure"; as the basis for new rules of the road that tie future education spending to outcomes; and through open SLDS platforms, as a catalyst for breakthroughs in learning technologies that are increasingly personalized to each student.

VLDS: What safeguards and privacy policies are in place that keep citizens safe?

CHOPRA: The president's cybersecurity standards must be adopted to ensure the highest levels of protection and on privacy, I would hope we will evolve from notice and consent towards providing individuals greater control over the use of such data. Personally, I would like to see all SLDS platforms adopt the President's "MyData" initiative which empowers students with the ability to download machine-readable copies of their SLDS data.

VLDS: How do you see longitudinal data systems like VLDS affecting policy?

CHOPRA: These SLDS platforms enable innovation, inform the public, and hold institutions accountable for results.

Aneesh Chopra will discuss all these topics during his keynote address as the Insights Conference on June 24.

VLDS Insights Conference Highlighted Sessions

The second annual INSIGHTS Conference is quickly approaching. Here's a preview of what you can expect during the breakout sessions. Want to know more? You can see the full agenda here.

HB 886: Making Student Progression and Outcome Data Part of the Advising Process
Presented by Tod Massa
During the 2014 legislative session, Delegate Chris Peace (R-97th district) introduced HB 886 requiring colleges, universities, school divisions, and secondary schools to provide direct links to SCHEV's reports on wage and debt outcomes and other measures. This session will discuss the implications of the new law and demonstrate the currently available data.

Dynamic Data Divisions
Presented by: Dr. Jared Cotton, Dr. James Lane, Dr. Thomas Taylor
Leaders from Henry, Middlesex, and Goochland counties will share innovative practices for using local data systems to inform instruction, provide professional development for teachers and drive a systemic plan for intervening with struggling students.

The Power of VLDS
Presented by: Leo Campos, Bethann Canada, Will Goldschmidt, Tod Massa
A personal discussion with the founders and visionaries behind the VLDS. This dialogue will discuss critical factors to successfully creating the system, current efforts underway, and our vision for the future.

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VLDS News

While most of the VLDS Insights Conference will be focused on "Bridging the Data Divide," we are going to spend a little time talking about ourselves. We're excited to announce some of our first accomplishments, including three research reports (or "Insights Powered by VLDS") and the addition of partner agencies. "To see the work of so many and the alliance of four state agencies recognized at the Insights Conference will be very rewarding, to say the least," said Bethann Canada, Director of Educational Information Management with the Virginia Department of Education and VLDS Project Director.

VLDS Insights Conference Fast Facts

Location: Hilton Richmond Hotel & Spa/Short Pump, Richmond, VA

Registration and Networking: Begins 8:00 AM

Do you want to know more? Visit the conference website to register and to see our exciting agenda. Space is filling fast and time is short! Register today to reserve your spot.

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