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## Q&A: Virginia Deputy Secretary of Technology, Anthony Fung

**VLDS:** What first interested you about VLDS?

**Fung:** I was interested in VLDS' concept of coordinated data sharing by multiple agencies in a secure environment to be used for analytics, with the goal to inform various stakeholders on what programs work, which ones don't, and what return on investments are we getting.



**VLDS:** How do you see VLDS fitting into Virginia's Data Initiatives?

**Fung:** VLDS' goals and objectives fit very much in line with the broader enterprise data analytics effort we are undertaking. I believe several of the concepts and technologies from VLDS can be leveraged as we develop a Commonwealth-wide effort.

**VLDS:** What role do you think the careful use of data plays in education, government or the workforce in Virginia?

**Fung:** I believe the secure, compliant, and coordinated analysis of data in the Commonwealth yield us the following benefits in all four areas:

- Improve agency efficiencies
- Reduce costs & increase revenues
- Improve & streamline service delivery
- Gain greater insights & make data-driven decisions

**VLDS:** How do you view the value of the insights powered by VLDS in your role as Virginia's Deputy Secretary of

Technology?

**Fung:** VLDS demonstrates that agencies can work together to share information in order to empower our Commonwealth to make more informed data driven decisions that will translate to increasing the value of our government services and maximizing the use of our resources. It is valuable for me to share the VLDS story to support our case on why we need to expand the use of data analytics enterprise-wide.

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## Virginia-Nevada-CIT SLDS Partnership

The Departments of Education, for both Virginia and Nevada, along with the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) have entered into a partnership to design, build and implement a statewide longitudinal data system for Nevada based on the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS). Nevada has currently scheduled its "go live" for the first week in July, which will put the entire project timeline from start to completion at just 14 months.

The unique partnership will result in cost savings through shared code and CIT resources and shared lessons learned in the development of data governance and privacy protections.

According to Virginia Secretary of Education Anne Holton, "Virginia is considered a leader among states that have longitudinal systems. Not only has Nevada modeled its state longitudinal data system on VLDS, but it also awarded a consultation project to CIT to assist with planning, governance, and security."

Some of the innovations that the states will share include:

- Research reporting methodologies
- Matching methodologies
- Upgraded researcher portal
- Software upgrades
- Privacy and security enhancements

Of course, the top priority of both states is to ensure that their citizens' information is protected. The Virginia-Nevada-CIT partnership only includes sharing of resources and programming and **will not** include sharing of any student or citizen data between the states.

"Thanks to Virginia and CIT, Nevada is on the cusp of having a multi-agency, automated approach to analyzing longitudinal data that will benefit the citizens and agencies of Nevada for years to come," said Tuhin Verma, Nevada's Project Manager. "Nevada is grateful for the hard work accomplished by Virginia in the development of VLDS. Quite simply, we could not have achieved this capability in just 14 months and at only \$2M, without Virginia's strong foundation. The bottom line is we are on schedule, under budget, and have achieved every project milestone - Nevada couldn't be happier."

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## Registration is open: 2015 VLDS Insights Conference



The 2015 Insights Conference will be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 on the Stafford Campus of the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg. For more information on the conference, keynote speaker and call for proposals click [here](#).

Register now for the Early-Bird price of \$75. Space is limited and prices will increase.

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