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VLDS
INSIGHTS CONFERENCE

Have you registered for the June 25 VLDS Insights Conference at George Mason University? If you plan to attend, now is the time to register because the limited conference seating is filling fast!

Read on for a primer on VLDS, highlights of some of the conference sessions and registration and travel information.

VLDS EXPLAINED

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 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.

AT THE VLDS INSIGHTS CONFERENCE: HIGHLIGHTED SESSIONS

The VLDS Insights Conference **will run from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Here are highlights of some of the sessions.**

THE POWER OF VLDS

Bethann Canada, Jeremy Deyo, Wendy Kang, Tod Massa, Ajay Rohatgi

Representatives of the founding VLDS Partner Agencvies (Virginia Department of Education, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Virginia Employment Commission, Virginia Community College System and Virginia Information Technologies Agency) will provide a brief history of VLDS and address the potential array of data-driven insights and their impact on education and workforce policies. The panel also will address the federated design that allows for extensibility to future data providers.

APPS4VA

Michael Nolan, Scott Starsman, Jason Gorman

The Apps4VA program challenges the public to develop software applications using VLDS. The program's several phases encouraged the development of solutions that will impact educational reach and help students, educators, and policymakers to plan for the future. In addition to the creation of more than 87 apps and the engagement of 200-plus participants, this program has created a dialog among the many education stakeholders in the Commonwealth - students, parents, educators, administrators, policymakers, developers and entrepreneurs. A panel of Apps4VA participants will present the apps they developed for the competitions and will discuss how their unique perspectives can affect data-driven decision making.

COMPLETION WAGES OF GRADUATES: EARLY CAREER OUTCOMES

Tod Massa, Jeff Strohl

In the fall of 2012, the State Council of Higher Education released one of the first insights powered by VLDS: the Post-Completions Wages of Graduates. These reports detail wage outcomes data on college graduates and even present analyses to the level of specific degree

programs for all public and private institutions of higher education in Virginia. While the reported wages, particularly at 18 months and five years post-completion, are not the only or even the most important measure of post-secondary success, they are important outcomes. The information they provide will become an important resource for students and their parents, especially as tuition costs and student debt continue to increase. This panel discussion will focus on the importance of these data, their appropriate uses, and how they fit into the national context (such as the work of the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University).

Check out the most current conference program here**.**

TRAVEL INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION
The conference is being held at George Mason University's Fairfax Campus. Campus map and directions.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER NOW!

Virginia Department of Education ✦   State Council of Higher Education for Virginia ✦ Virginia Community College System ✦ Virginia Employment Commission ✦ Center for Innovative Technology ✦ Virginia Tech