



For Immediate Release: June 23, 2014

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VLDS Research Reveals Path to College and Career Readiness

Students who earn an Advanced Studies Diploma and take Chemistry and Algebra II during high school are more likely to experience success in college and earn a degree within four years, according to research that will be presented tomorrow (Tuesday, June 24) at the second annual Insights Conference at the Hilton Richmond Hotel and Spa/Short Pump.

The findings on achievement levels and course-taking patterns associated with college and career readiness will be presented by Virginia Department of Education researcher Deborah Jonas and research scientist Marshall Garland of the Gibson Consulting Group during a 9:30 a.m. breakout session.

During their study, Jonas and Garland followed 2008 Virginia public high school graduates through four years of college. The research project was among the first conducted with the Virginia Longitudinal Data System (VLDS), which includes strict controls and advanced technology to protect the privacy of students and other citizens.

Other presentations during the conference include results of research into long-term educational and employment outcomes of high school graduates who completed a career and technical education program and research findings on the impact of Virginia's three publicly funded workforce training programs.

The 2014 Insights Conference theme, "Bridging the Data Divide," emphasizes how research through VLDS supports the development of sound public policy while meeting or exceeding all state and federal privacy laws.

Conference keynote speakers are Virginia Secretary of Technology Karen Jackson and former US Chief Technology Officer Aneesh Chopra, who served as state technology secretary under Governor Timothy Kaine.

More information on tomorrow's conference is available online from the Center for Innovative Technology at this address: <http://www.cit.org/insights-conference/>.

What: 2014 Insights Conference

Where: Hilton Richmond Hotel and Spa/Short Pump, 12042 W. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23233

When: 8:45 a.m., Tuesday, June 24, 2014

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