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14 MathScience Innovation Center Faculty Make 12 Presentations at Annual VAST Conference

The Virginia Association of Science Teachers (VAST) held their annual meeting in northern Virginia on November 5-7. VAST is a comprehensive educational organization dedicated to the nurturing and advancement of superior science education. VAST provides leadership by promoting the study of science at all grade-levels; supporting conditions which ensure an optimal environment for the teaching of science; advocating high quality science instruction for all students at all levels; and, providing an avenue for communication among the members of the science education community.

The MathScience Innovation Center was excited to be invited to make twelve presentations to highlight our programs, and to advocate for the inclusion of futuristic topics in Virginia's *Standards of Learning* The presenters and their topics included:

1. Kris Vester & Bill Rhyne: "Engineering in the Middle School Classroom"
2. Cheri Kelleher & Gail Warren: "Scratch Fever: Science & Math in Scratch Programming"
3. Rhonda Hawley: "Engineering to Reduce Germs"
4. Charlene Saunders: "Teaching 21st Century Topics and SOLs"
5. Pam O'Brien: "GeoSnow: Investigating the World of Snowflakes"
6. Gail Warren: "Racing with Hydrogen"
7. Laura Blackburn: "Keeping it Cool!"
8. Crystal Clark: "Learning from Nature"
9. Steve Oden: "A New Lens on Student Research Projects"
10. Rachel Martin: "Modeling Nature's Forest Population"
11. Cheri Kelleher: "Connecting Teachers and Students Virtually"
12. Lorin Wharton: "Nanoscience Meets Today's Classroom".

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The MathScience Innovation Center is proud to be the leader of K-12 math and science education for the eight Central Virginia school divisions within our forty-three year old Consortium (Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Hanover, Henrico, King William, Petersburg, Powhatan and Richmond Public Schools) and the capacity building workforce program for K-12 educators and students that provides expanded opportunities to learn about emerging fields (fractal geometry, engineering, nanotechnology, environmental modeling) and effective ways to integrate within the curriculum.