

# Press Release

## **Monmouth University School of Education Superintendents' Academy Explore using Tablet Technology to Promote Student Achievement**

**WEST LONG BRANCH, December 12, 2012:** Over 60 District Superintendents and Administrators explored ways to effectively use tablet technology to promote student achievement at the second session of the Monmouth University Superintendents' Academy. The workshop was held at the University's Multipurpose Activity Center (MAC). Presenters were Gregory Farley, Supervisor of Educational Technology, Hazlet Township Public Schools; Christine Grabowski, 3rd Grade Teacher, Middle Road School, Hazlet; and Michael Vitarello, Visual and Performing Arts Academy-Lead Principal, Long Branch Middle School. Farley and Grabowski are also adjunct Professors for the Educational Leadership, School Counseling, and Special Education Department at Monmouth University.

Presenters demonstrated applications (APPs) on the devices, with participants posing questions throughout the presentation. Ocean Township Superintendent, John Lysko said that the session provided valuable information about the integration of tablet technology into instruction. "The presentations offered innovative ways to promote student achievement with this cutting edge technology," said Lysko.

Matt Howell, Principal, Maple Place School Middle School, Oceanport shared that the training was meaningful. "The APPs shared can be used in any school district to enhance instructional practices," said Howell. "The multiple connections to best practices will support student success across the discipline."

Aside from the many APPS that were presented, there were several other key points regarding the use of technology. The first was that districts should ensure that teachers be provided with sufficient professional development to use the APP or any other technological innovation. Next, they underscored the importance of making effective use of technology by integrating it into the user's daily routine. Finally, administrators should keep the human element in mind. "In other words don't let your technological prowess over power your face to face contact with your staff," said Dr. Harvey R. Allen, Monmouth University Assistant Professor.

The Academy was formed in 2009 to provide a forum for dialogue and an exchange of ideas and experiences that provides opportunities of professional learning for superintendents and central office personnel. There are currently 41 membership districts who can send up to three district administrators to each of the four sessions.

The topics for the remaining sessions for the 2012-2013 membership year are: Technology Policies and Practices, March 13, 2013; and Promoting Excellence and Equity for Diverse Learners, May 15, 2013. Both sessions will be held at Monmouth University's MAC. For more information, please call the Monmouth University's School of Education Dean's Office at 732-571-7518 or email [soesuperintendentsacademy@monmouth.edu](mailto:soesuperintendentsacademy@monmouth.edu).

## **Monmouth University School of Education Superintendents' Academy Starts Its Fourth Year**

Dean Romeo opened the 2012-2013 Monmouth University School of Education Superintendents' Academy on October 3, 2012 in the Varsity Room at Monmouth University's Multipurpose Activity Center (MAC). District superintendents and central office personnel from over thirty-two districts attended the session entitled, "Where Are You in Your Evaluation System: A Panel Discussion on Danielson, Marzano, and Rhode Island Models" of teacher evaluation.

District Superintendents Dr. Bernard Bragen, Hazlet Township; Mr. Thomas Gialanella, Jackson Township; Mr. Christopher Rooney, Atlantic Highlands, Henry Hudson Regional High School, and Highlands Elementary School; and Ms. Karen Wood, Barnegat Township presented with an overview of the various evaluation models used by their districts.

According to Monmouth University Assistant Professor Harvey Allen, "This overview helped reinforce what many districts have already initiated in the state mandated teacher evaluation reform process". Dr. Allen serves on the Academy's Steering Committee and has assisted in organizing and facilitating sessions since the Academy's inception in fall 2009.

"It was interesting to hear how many districts have used these research based models in the development of their own 'home grown' evaluation procedures," said Dr. Allen. "During lunch, the superintendents' 'Table Talk' discussions demonstrated how they have used this initiative to improve teaching and learning throughout their districts."

The Academy's mission is to provide a forum for dialogue and an exchange of ideas and experiences that provides opportunities of professional learning for superintendents and central office personnel. The Academy also provides a network of support for colleagues in collaboration with the University and its resources.

There are four workshop sessions per year. The topics for upcoming sessions are: How Can Administrators and Teachers Use iPads and Apps Effectively, November 14, 2012; Technology Policies and Practices, March 13, 2013; Promoting Excellence and Equity for Diverse Learners, May 15, 2013. All sessions are 12pm-2pm and include lunch.

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