



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

January 24, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: IT Career Pathways Game**

A Web-based game designed to interest girls in information technology (IT) careers is now available at <http://itpathways.org>. It is targeted at girls in rural Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina but can be used to interest any student in the possibilities of an IT career.

Girls currently make up 25 percent of the IT work force and there is ample growth in the field. The game provides a virtual "bike ride" with various challenges that assess skills, interests, and preferences. At the completion of the ride, a sampling of potential IT careers based on game results is provided. Overviews of each career include a description, educational requirements, and salary range. Students can also review schools that offer educational programs related to a particular career and local employers who hire people in these careers.

The project is funded through a National Science Foundation grant (GSE/EXT 0832913) and managed by the Center for Information Technology Impacts on Children, Youth, and Families at Virginia Tech.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about the IT Career Pathways game, please contact Dr. Peggy S. Meszaros, Director of the Center for Information Technology Impacts on Children, Youth, and Families, at Virginia Tech by telephone at (540) 231-9428 or by e-mail at [meszaros@vt.edu](mailto:meszaros@vt.edu).

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