

## VASCD: Innovation and Practicality (*cont'd*)

By Va. Beach Principal Daniel Smith, VASCD President

Many years ago, while teaching in Shenandoah County, I agreed to attend my first Virginia ASCD conference in Williamsburg. I was amazed by the international keynote speakers as well as the outstanding quality and content that surpassed many national conferences. As an educator that was passionate about continuously improving my practice and staying abreast of the most up-to-date best practices, I was hooked! A few years later, while again attending the conference, I met Virginia ASCD's executive director and asked to become involved. I am honored and privileged to work with the most innovative yet practical educators across the country, and I will be proud to serve as your Virginia ASCD president for the next two years.

As we move forward, I am encouraged by the future of education in the Commonwealth. Virginia ASCD has been helping to lead the way at the state level to clearly define what assessment and accountability should look like for today's learners while providing high-quality professional learning opportunities for educators to effectively challenge and meet the needs of students in our classrooms. This golden opportunity to move education in Virginia forward will not be possible without your dedication to continuous improvement. Please join me and Virginia ASCD to help provide our students a world-class education that will be second to none. Over a decade ago SOLs and state standardized testing were created to meet the needs of our students. Help us now to advocate for a system that meets the needs of today's and tomorrow's students. Please visit [our website](#) or contact [me](#) or [any of our board members](#) for information about how to get involved.

This year, we will continue to work collaboratively with educational organizations across Virginia to give teachers and students the opportunity to reach greater heights than ever before. Professional Development Institutes (PDIs) are planned in all parts of the state. These sessions represent best practices in performance assessments, mathematics, grading and instructional coaching all anchored by an incredible annual conference on December 3-5 in Williamsburg.

I wish you and your students a great journey this year!